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# TEXAS

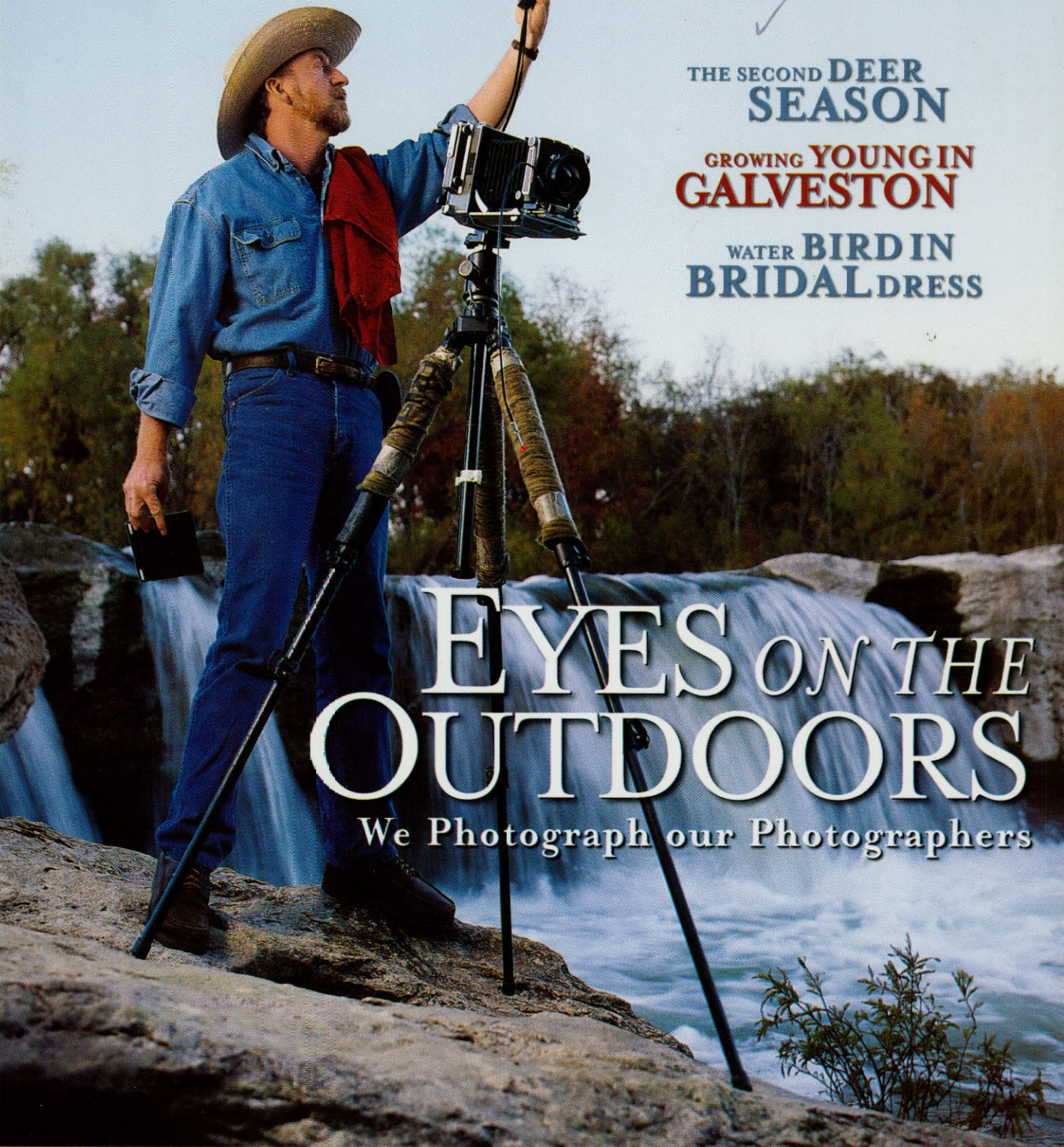
PARKS & WILDLIFE

The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS

THE SECOND DEER  
SEASON

GROWING YOUNG IN  
GALVESTON

WATER BIRD IN  
BRIDAL DRESS



## EYES ON THE OUTDOORS

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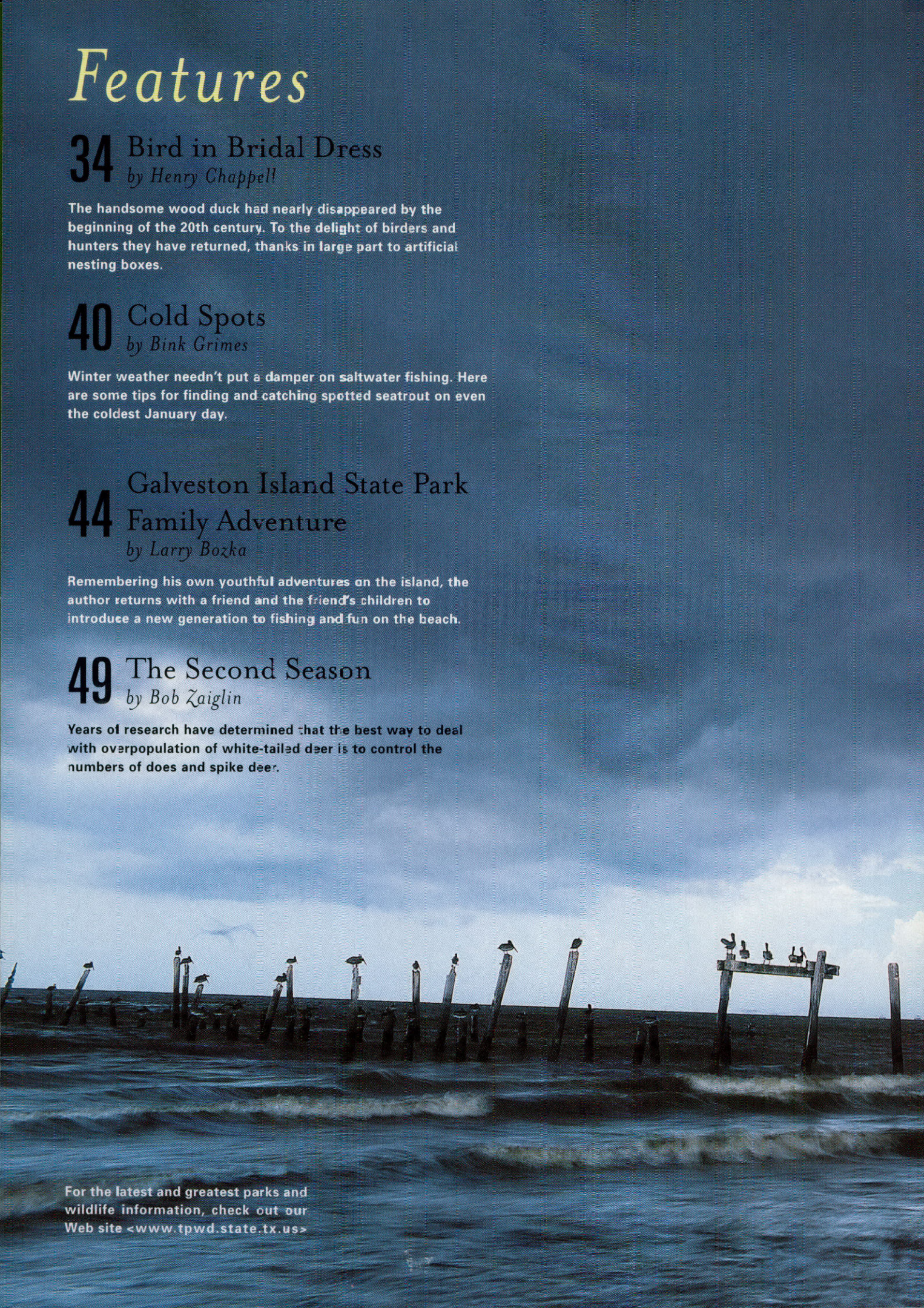
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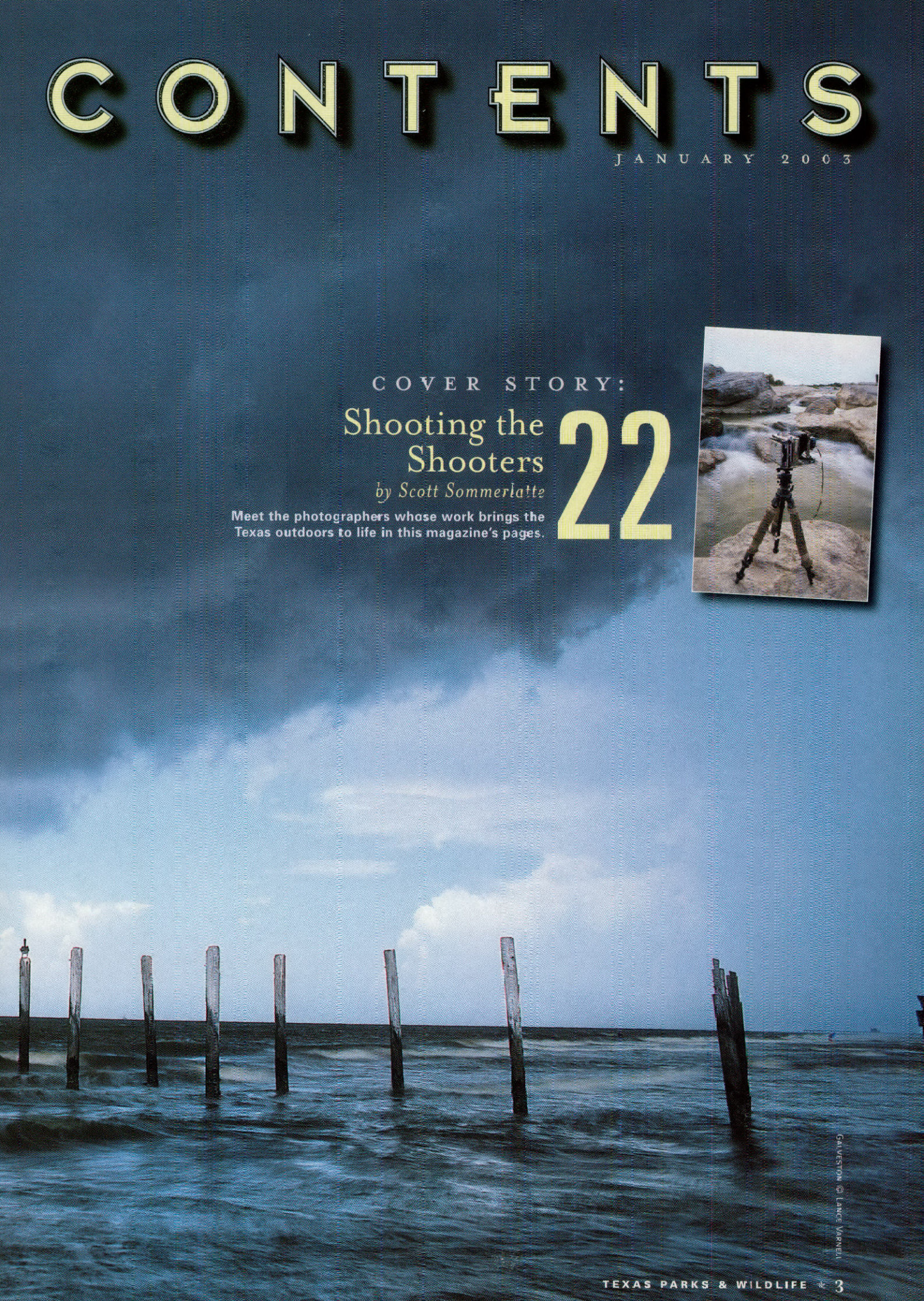
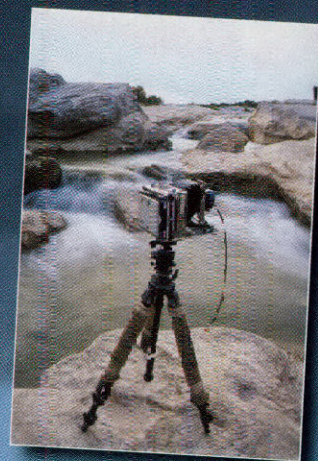
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**BACK:** Spotted seatrout fishing heats up during the colder months. Story starts on page 40. Photo © davidjsams.com.

This page: Wood duck © Joe Mac Hudspeth, Jr.



# TEXAS

The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS

JANUARY 2003, VOL. 61, NO. 1

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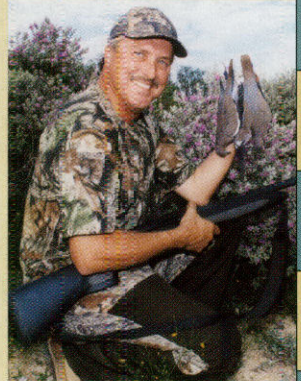
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# In the Field

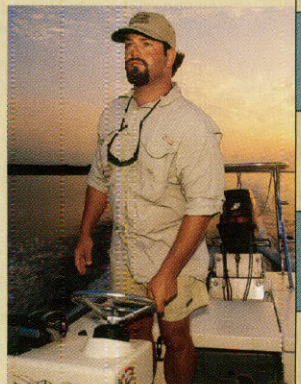
**LARRY BOZKA**, during his 25-year career, has served as editor of the Coastal Conservation Association's *TIDE*, *Texas Fisherman* and *Texas Fish & Game*. He has more than 100 writing, photography, radio and video production awards to his credit. Author of *Larry Bozka's Saltwater Strategies*, he is currently working on a new book about Texas coastal fishing. Along with frequent public speaking engagements, Bozka co-hosts "Outdoors With Junebug & The Boz" Thursday evenings on KTXN 98.7FM Texas Radio and the SportsRadio 610 Outdoor Show Thursday through Sunday mornings on Houston radio station KILT 610 AM. In addition, Bozka hosts the award-winning Web site, CoastalAnglers.com. In this issue he shares memories of Galveston Island State Park.



**BINK GRIMES**, who writes about spotted seatrout fishing in winter, is a full-time freelance outdoor writer and photographer from Bay City. His text and photos have appeared in national and regional magazines, and he writes the weekly coastal fishing report and migratory bird hunting report for TPWD. Grimes also finds time to teach high school English and journalism in Bay City. He is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the Texas Outdoor Writers Association, where he has won 10 Excellence in Craft Awards since his induction in 1999. He and his wife, Shelly, have a seven-month-old daughter, Mallcry, named after a mallard duck. Grimes claims he had nothing to do with it.



**SCOTT SOMMERLATTE**, born and raised on the Texas Coast, has made a living as a fly fishing and waterfowl guide for more than a decade. In the natural scheme of things, he says, it was only a matter of time before he started to record his experiences. In recent years his images and writing have appeared in numerous national and regional publications and he is recognized as a contributing writer for *Fly Fishing in Salt Waters* magazine. In this issue he introduces readers to Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine's four contributing photographers.





# AT ISSUE

FROM THE PEN OF ROBERT L. COOK

**As we welcome in the new year of 2003**, I hope that you will plan to enjoy the wonders of outdoor Texas many times during the coming year.

This issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* provides a sampling of the variety of outdoor activities available in Texas and the conservation responsibilities that go with them.

- Texas has a wide variety of unsurpassed hunting opportunities that are available to us today because of decades of conservation efforts, financial contributions and commitment by the private landowners and hunters of Texas. While other states brag about their public hunting lands, Texas far exceeds their results in hunter numbers, hunting success rates, season lengths, liberal bag limits and the variety of species available. **Hunt Texas.**
- Overall, fishing has never been better in Texas. Want to catch a huge bass? Want to enjoy the best saltwater fishing in North America? **Fish Texas.**
- Want to capture on film a wide variety of birds, animals and scenic wonders? **Photograph Texas.**

Also, as we begin the new year it is important that we pause to say thanks for all the blessings of the years gone by and the people who made these wonderful opportunities available. Our incredible state parks and outdoor learning centers such as the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens and Sea Center Texas at Lake Jackson would not be available to the children and citizens of Texas without the thousands of volunteer workers who give freely of their time and skills every day. We could not operate sites such as Bastrop, Inks Lake, Mother Neff, Monahans Sandhills and Palo Duro Canyon state parks without this assistance. Historic sites such as the Admiral Nimitz Museum, Battleship Texas, Fort Griffin, Fort McKavett and the San Jacinto Battleground simply would not be what they are today without this gift of labor and love.

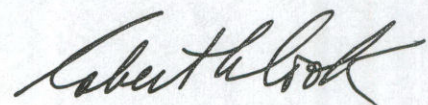
All Texans have ownership in our state's natural and cultural resources and should take immense pride in assisting with the upkeep of these facilities.

Hunters, fishers, park visitors, boaters and landowners pay fees directly for the opportunity to enjoy these resources and special places. We thank each of you, and hope that other outdoor enthusiasts will be inspired by your example. However, these sizable contributions are not enough to properly care for the infrastructure and operation of these facilities. For this, we look to the legislature.

The members of the Texas Legislature deserve our thanks and our support for their continuing efforts to provide the funding needed by our agency, especially for our state park system. The 78th session of the Texas Legislature begins work and deliberation this month to address the state's many issues and needs. Their task is not an easy one and, like many others, we need their assistance during this legislative session.

The next time you see one of our many volunteers, legislators or conservation-minded citizens, be aware of what they do for all Texans and take the time to say, "Thank you for your help; what can I do?"

*Our incredible state parks and outdoor learning centers would not be available without thousands of volunteer workers.*



*Texas Parks and Wildlife Department mission statement:*

**To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.**



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# MAIL CALL

PICKS, PANS AND PROBES FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES

## FOREWORD

**The Texas Book Festival, held on the State Capitol grounds,** is one of the premier events of its kind in the nation. I recently attended this annual event, which took place Nov. 14 through 17 under a crisp, sun-gilded sky. All proceeds from this event — primarily from book sales — are awarded as grants to Texas public libraries. In seven years, the Texas Book Festival has awarded more than \$2 million to hundreds of libraries across Texas. Wondrously, this event is free to the public.

Begun in 1995, under the ardent leadership of then-Texas first lady Laura Bush, an advocate for literacy and former librarian, this event attracted more than 20,000 readers in both 2000 and 2001.

From what I could see of this year's event, that number has surely been bested.

Not only a showcase of Texas' longstanding and emerging literary talent, the event also features top-drawer national writers. With more than a dozen speakers appearing simultaneously throughout the weekend, I found it deliciously exciting, sometimes, to determine which author's seminar to attend. The settings, as well, are spectacular, as more than once I was ensconced behind a large wooden desk near the front of the Senate Chamber or high in the gallery with the House Chamber spanning out below.

Some of the nationally prominent writers I heard speak include Rick Bragg (*All Over but the Shoutin'; Ava's Man*), Fannie Flagg (*Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe; Standing in the Rainbow*), Jim Harrison (*Off to the Side: A Memoir; Legends of the Fall*), Tim O'Brien (*July, July; The Things They Carried*) and Annie Proulx (*Close Range: Wyoming Stories; The Shipping News*).

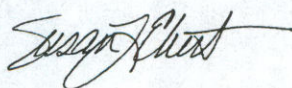
Texans who made standout appearances include many names who have graced the pages of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* with their talent, including John Graves, Keith Graves, Rich Haddaway, Elmer Kelton, Wyman Meinzer, Ben Rehder, Jan Reid, Carlton Stowers and Robb Walsh.

Prominent Texas talents Bill Broyles (screenwriter for *Apollo 13, Cast Away*); Bill Wittliff (screenwriter for *Lonesome Dove, The Perfect Storm*) and Edwin "Bud" Shrake (*Billy Boy, Harvey Penick's Little Red Book*) lit up the crowds with their presence, as did Texas musical greats such as Steve Fromholz, Jimmie LaFave, Kimmie Rhodes, Billy Joe Shaver and the inimitable Kinky Friedman.

And this bears repeating: This event is free to the public!

If you weren't there this year, at least know I was also working on your behalf. Besides listening to authors speak and buying books, I spent the weekend scouting for the best talent to bring to *Texas Parks & Wildlife's* future issues, among both the yet-to-be-discovered and the luminaries.

And to those of you who have bought the Texas Parks and Wildlife Press book, *Texas Rivers*, by John Graves and Wyman Meinzer, a heartfelt thanks. It was a popular item, indeed, at this year's Book Festival. *Texas Rivers*, just released in August 2002, is now preparing for its second printing.



## LETTERS

### ACROSS THE FENCE

After reading "Stealing Beauty" by Mike Cox (November 2002), I felt overwhelmingly inspired to respond.

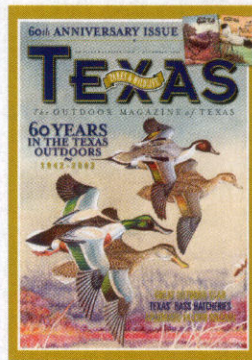
Hunting in Texas over the past several decades has become a rich man's sport.

Only an individual who has the discretionary income that allows him/her to spend \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year in pursuit of white-tailed deer can afford to do what was accomplished only 60 years ago for a few tens of dollars. It is quite clear that "checkbook" hunting is alive and well in Texas. I have even heard of \$300 per day dove hunts, (which puts the price of each bird at \$25 apiece for a legal limit, not including license, ammunition and fuel). Is the landowner or guide selling the migratory game birds and deer, or just the "access" to his land?

Having surveyed land extensively in several South Texas counties, and noticing the 15-foot-tall page wire game fences that are prevalent throughout the region, it is patently obvious that the statute proclaiming that the wild

game within Texas "belongs to the public" is absurd. The game that exists on ranches and private land throughout the state are used as just another natural resource to be exploited for the financial benefit of the landowner, much like oil and gas.

Which brings me to the point of this letter. The poachers, who are "stealing beauty," are merely responding to market pressures brought on by greedy landowners and wealthy competitive hunters, who will pay large sums of money for a "trophy." While it is easy to cast blame on those



I am enthralled with Orville Rice's artwork that was featured in the December 2002 issue. As a child, I wrote to TPWD to get copies of these paintings. Imagine my delight when I actually recognized some of the illustrations I received as a child, scattered throughout this issue!

Beth Ellis  
Goliad



# MAIL CALL

villainous poachers — with their GPS receivers and night vision goggles — the real blame lies with Texas' deer hunters, who each year pay ridiculous sums of money to harvest a mere 95 pounds of venison. Unfortunately for the average working man, the costs of hunting in Texas will continue to increase as the state's population continues to increase. Lease fees inevitably will continue to increase to the point where only the wealthy elite will be able to harvest the "King's deer."

When viewed in this modern context, these high tech poachers have much more in common with Robin Hood than what was inferred in the article.

RICHARD CHARITAT  
Houston

I read every issue of your excellent magazine. In the November 2002 issue, Mike Cox wrote about the very real problem of deer poaching in Texas. Poachers are scum who should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. However, poachers are an obvious target for our disdain. All law abiding sportsmen hate poachers.

I would like to see your magazine print an in-depth article on the evils of high fencing, which is doing far more to steal our wildlife, destroy our deer habitat and deny the average hunter in Texas a fair chance at decent bucks than poaching ever will.

While the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department attacks the poacher and remains silent on what amounts to deer farming with the public white-tailed deer herd, I hardly think that the department is serving real sportsmen or the wonderful whitetail population of Texas.

TPWD should be leading the charge to stop the traffic in native game and the turning of many ranches into nothing more than deer galleries where fair chase hunts are nonexistent. The high fences wrongfully appropriate state-owned deer. High fencing contributes to gene pool degradation and I shall not be surprised when chronic wasting disease makes its way into Texas, abetted by high-fence deer farms.

If TPWD really wants to conserve our wildlife and make sure that the average hunter has a fair chance at game — game that is owned by the people of Texas — then it should be leading the bandwagon to stop high fencing and ensure free-ranging deer and the free ranging of all other native species.

JAMES M. WHITTEN  
Sinton



## POODLE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE?

My husband and I really enjoy reading *Texas Parks & Wildlife*. That is why I just have to speak up about your September issue. The article "Special Delivery" is a great tribute to the Labrador retriever and a slap in the face to the poodle.

I realize most people do not know that the poodle is one of the oldest retrieving breeds in the world. They have webbed feet for swimming and a pom-pom haircut to keep them from losing body heat in cold water. I have enclosed a photograph of my black standard poodle, Deaux Rey. Like the Labrador, he can mix it up with water moccasins and snapping turtles.

SHEREE MELANCON  
Houston

## BABCOCK'S BUDDIES

Bob Cook's quote from Havilah Babcock in his November 2002 "At Issue" column reminded me that there are others who remember Babcock fondly. He was my favorite author during what I feel was the "Golden Age" of *Field and Stream*.

While I am not a bird hunter, I still could imagine the feeling of getting up early and following a good dog in search of covey. I also read several of his little books and remember his story of the heart attack and how his doctor attributed his strong chest muscles to his use of a shotgun. He also told of how he cured an arthritic knee by stepping in a hole on one of his hunts.

I also remember with fondness Robert Ruark's *Old Man and the Boy*. I wish I had been able to share some of the experiences he described with my grandsons.

Henry Chappell mentions Nash Buckingham, Babcock and Ruark in his quail story "Gentleman Bob" in the November 2002 issue, so there are still those of us around who remember.

We are not hunters and now are not campers, but we still like to visit the state

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parks and enjoy the pleasures they offer. I continue to subscribe to the magazine for its outstanding photography and articles.

I am a longtime fan of John Graves and bought one of the first copies of *Texas Rivers* to add to my library. Hopefully some day one of the grandchildren will find it and appreciate it as much as I do.

WILLIAM RAY GREEN  
Gainesville

### DE LOUP-GAROU, HE GIT YOU

When I was a mischievous 9-year-old boy summering in Lake Charles, Louisiana, my Cajun grandmother introduced me to the legend of the "Loup-garou" (October 2002).

"The Loup-garou has bitten you again!" she would admonish for such deeds as hiding car keys or pilfering cookies before supper.

Her Loup-garou was a shape-shifting marsh creature with red eyes and alligator teeth. Its sole purpose in life was to slip into young boys' bedrooms in the shape of an ant, bite the sleeping boy with prank-filled venom, then leave undetected. Supposedly, the boy with the most bites, or who had accomplished the most pranks, became the new Loup-garou when the old one was ready to die.

My grandmother is gone now, but thank you for bringing back a 30-some-odd-year-old memory of her.

MARK GASPARD  
Tennessee Colony

### SEAMAN'S SURPRISE

My surprise was beyond description. Upon discovering that a few brief things I wrote almost 60 years ago were included in your September 2002 issue. I was Amex Seaman Robbins who was quoted a couple of times in the article by Jim Anderson about the Battleship *Texas*.

By coincidence, I was aboard the ship visiting with shipboard caretaker personnel when Susan Smyer, collection registrar, presented the September 2002 issue to me. She, along with others, have assisted me in visits such as the 50th anniversary reunion of the Normandy Invasion and many more subsequent visits.

I was an underage teenager — just a high school sophomore! — when I was first sent aboard the Battleship *Texas*. It is still like coming home to a beloved World War II residence and battle station each time I visit.

ROY L. ROBBINS  
Ozark, Ala.

### SHE'S IN THE DOGHOUSE NOW

Some of us poor unfortunates lost our Sheads in the early '70s and moved away from the beautiful state of Texas. Some of the really crazy ones, like me, moved to California.

Fortunately, I married a wonderful Californian who acts like a Texan; i.e., he hunts and fishes and (occasionally) swears... but never in front of a lady. Well, to let him know why those of us who leave Texas never really let our passports expire, my fourth-generation-Texan mother (who has had the good sense to remain in the Lone Star State) has blessed my husband with a subscription to your beautiful magazine. He loves it; reads it; saves it. What I never knew is that, occasionally, from time to time he goes back through his *Texas Parks & Wildlife* issues.

Recently, he has discovered one issue is missing. The issue was published a few months ago, picturing a trio of handsome retrievers on the cover. Unbeknownst to him, the culprit of the missing issue is... well, me. I gave it to a very close girlfriend who has a yellow Lab, recently lost a black Lab and yearns for a chocolate.

I must have another copy! My girlfriend refuses to part with her gift... can you blame her? And my husband is searching for his to give to some of his duck hunting buddies. Please, oh please, let me know the cost, and I will gladly send it to you by credit card... or check, or cash, or... well, you understand.

Thank you so much for your immediate attention to this matter!

DEBBIE HERON  
Carmel Valley, Calif.

### Sound off for "Mail Call!"

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# SCOUT

NEWS AND VIEWS IN THE TEXAS OUTDOORS

## Shrimp Poachers Beware

*Yes, game wardens can see in the dark.*

Night vision equipment helped United States armed forces crush Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard in 1991's Operation Desert Storm. More recently, it gave our Special Forces troops a hand in overwhelming the Taliban in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Now it is allowing Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens to subdue poachers along the Gulf Coast.

Last fall, the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) donated \$32,000 in night vision binoculars and other surveillance equipment to aid TPWD wardens in coastal enforcement.

"These binoculars have allowed our wardens to see nocturnal game thieves in action," says game warden captain Rex Mayes. "They allowed the recent apprehension of several shrimpers suspected of illegal practices and the capture of hundreds of pounds of illegally harvested red snapper."

Night shrimping in particular has been an ongoing problem in Texas and TPWD officials have formally addressed it on several occasions. TPWD coastal fisheries director Hal Osburn says that over the last few years, TPWD officials had numerous meetings with the shrimping industry to discuss this and other problems in the fishery.

"We consistently hear complaints from shrimpers about poaching, especially at night," he says. "The first drag of the morning can often be one of the best of the day since the shrimp are still bunched up. Poachers getting started before daybreak make it harder for the legal shrimpers to make a living. A strong law enforcement presence on the water at night is one of the best ways to deter these resource thieves."

Night vision goggles allow wardens to observe areas at night without using lights, which alert poachers to their presence. In the same way they allow soldiers to intercept the enemy, wardens are able to use the element of surprise to bust poachers.

"Poachers can get very inventive, so it is important for us to have up-to-date technology," Osburn says. "The Texas Coast is a vast area and enforcing it is challenging, so anything



PHOTO © DAVIDSANS.COM

**Night shrimping has been an ongoing problem in Texas. New night vision goggles will allow game wardens to observe areas without alerting poachers to their presence.**

we can get to aid in that cause is appreciated."

CCA officials are proud to be able to provide this kind of help to TPWD. "Conservation means the wise use of resources, so aiding coastal law enforcement fits right along with our organization," says CCA Executive Director Pat Murray.

Texas coastal resources are under more pressure than ever and it is important for wardens to be able to do their jobs effectively despite the situation. Murray says that until someone spends some time with a warden it is hard to understand just how difficult his or her job can be.

"Texas game wardens are some of the hardest-working people around and anything we can do to make their jobs a little easier is our pleasure," he says.

Groups such as CCA, which has donated more than \$400,000 to TPWD research and enforcement over the year, are an invaluable resource, according to Osburn.

"First of all, they demonstrate why ongoing resource management is so important, because they are the end users of well-managed stocks," he says. "They also provide unique financial support for items that state government may take a long time to fund, but are critical items at the time for biologists or game wardens. The fact that they are willing to voluntarily pay for these items gives me great comfort that we really are going in the right direction with Texas fisheries."

—Chester Moore, Jr.



# Sink It!

## *New artificial reefs continue to enhance marine habitat in the Gulf of Mexico.*

Rusty steel. This usually signals the end of life for many man-made structures, but is just the beginning for artificial reefs, structures placed by man in the aquatic environment. Artificial reefs are used to enhance fishery resources and increase fishing and diving opportunities in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Texas Artificial Reef Program recently acquired eight obsolete El Paso Production Company petroleum structures, about 90 miles offshore in several hundred feet of water. They were reefed through the Rigs-to-Reefs program. Not only was marine habitat preserved, but the reef program received more than \$1.7 million out of the deal to help fund monitoring and scientific research.

Marine anglers long have recognized the benefits of artificial structures in enhancing their fishing. The first marine reefs were constructed in the United States in the mid-1800s. Reef construction gained momentum in the 1930s, and by the 1960s artificial reefs were numerous.

However, with few guidelines, people used everything from steel to automobile tires. It was not uncommon for some of these materials to move around and quickly deteriorate. By the mid-1970s, artificial reefs were recognized as tools for the enhancement of marine habitat and fisheries management. A National Artificial Reef Plan, drafted in 1984, provided guidance for artificial reef development and management by individuals and government agencies.

Artificial reef development in Texas coastal waters has been going on for more than 50 years, but it was not until the mid-1970s that stable, durable and complex artificial reefs were constructed with the sinking of 12 surplus World War II Liberty Ships. These ships were sunk at five sites in the Gulf of Mexico and represent the first successful reef development activity within Texas waters.

During the mid-1980s, hundreds of obsolete petroleum platforms were being removed from the Gulf of Mexico and taken to shore for recycling. Off the Texas Coast there is little of the natural hard substrate that is required to build reef fish communities, so scientists, anglers and divers alike recognized that unique marine ecosystems were created by the marine growth on the legs of oil platforms, much like an oasis in a desert. But the oasis was running dry.

This loss of marine habitat prompted the Texas Legislature to pass the Texas Artificial Reef Act in 1989, championed by state

senators J.E. "Buster" Brown and Eddie Lucio, Jr. Through this act, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was directed to develop the artificial reef potential off Texas. The end result was the adoption of the Texas Artificial Reef Plan in 1990 and the creation of the reef program.

The legislation also provided a means for the oil and gas industry to donate obsolete petroleum structures as artificial reefs through a new program, Rigs-to-Reefs. Before this program, a petroleum company was required by federal law to remove non-productive structures. Now, with Rigs-to-Reefs, a company can donate obsolete structures to the reef program, thereby saving them money in clean-up costs and the State of Texas precious marine habitat. The reef program receives a percentage of the cost savings for use in research and monitoring. It is a "win-win" situation for the companies and the reef program, but the biggest winner is the marine environment.

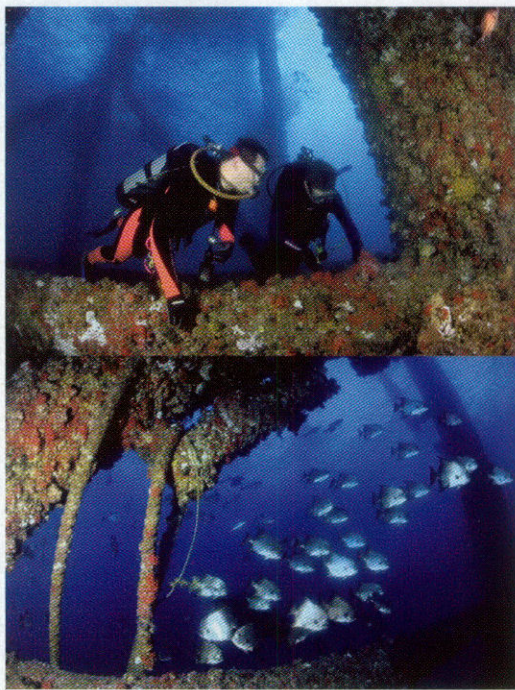
From 1990 to fall 2002, the reef program had received 67 obsolete petroleum structures and established 45 reef sites in the Gulf. With total reef funds exceeding \$6 million, Texas remains a major player in the enhancement of marine habitat in the Gulf of Mexico.

Along with the recent El Paso Petroleum platform donations, Texas continues to build artificial reefs in Gulf waters. Reefs have been constructed from various materials, such as welded pipe, fabricated concrete reef balls and culverts, natural quarry rocks ranging in size up to several tons, a 55-ton U.S. Navy surplus steel buoy, several barges, one T-2 steel tanker and a 44-foot steel tugboat. The reef program is continually assessing new materials to determine their overall benefits to anglers, divers and the marine ecosystem.

For a listing of artificial reef sites off Texas or more information on artificial reefs, visit the TPWD Web site at <[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)> or write to Texas Artificial Reef

Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744-3291.

—J. Dale Shively



**Artificial reefs such as petroleum structures enhance marine habitat in the Gulf of Mexico, improving conditions for diving and fishing.**

## FIELD NOTES

### *Millionaire Turkeys*

**The wild turkey is America's latest millionaire.**

National Wild Turkey Federation chapters in Texas and 15 other states have each spent more than \$1 million on projects that benefit wild turkeys and other wildlife species. The NWTF distributes money from the superfund, which is administered jointly by the NWTF, its state chapters and their respective state wildlife agencies. Texas projects include eastern turkey restoration, habitat enhancement, equipment and education. For more information on the National Wild Turkey Federation, go to <[www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)>.



# Looking for Land Stewards

## Who Will Be Texas' Conservation Stars for 2003?

The Lone Star Land Steward Awards program recognizes private landowners for their accomplishments in habitat management and wildlife conservation. The program is designed to educate landowners and the public and to encourage wider participation in habitat conservation.

Land stewards may be nominated by biologists, friends, hunters/lessees, associates and partners, family members or other members of the community. Completed nomination packets are sent to the appropriate TPWD regional offices, and local selection committee members then visit, inspect and rate each property based primarily on conservation and wildlife management, but also on local involvement, youth activities, research and innovative approaches to land management.

Awards are given in three categories. The primary category honors one outstanding private land steward from each of the 10 ecological regions. The next category recognizes outstanding stewardship by a wildlife management association or wildlife co-op. The third category recognizes outstanding stewardship by non-governmental organizations and corporations. A statewide winner also is selected.

The 12 winners are honored at a ceremony in Austin each year around the end of May. Video highlights of the winning properties showcase the special attributes for which each landowner is being recognized. Certificates, plaques, artwork or other commemorative items are awarded to each person responsible for the outstanding stewardship demonstrated.

Applications for the 2003 Lone Star Land Steward Awards will be accepted until Jan. 31, 2003. Obtain applications from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744 or on the conservation page of the TPWD Web site at <[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)>. —Linda McMurry

## TEXAS READER

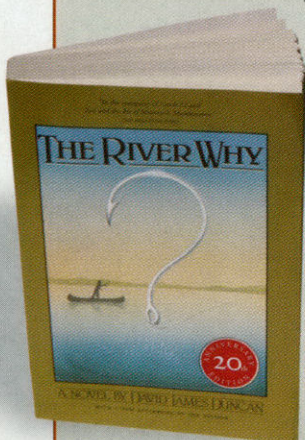
### Bridge to *The River Why*

Turn back time with David James Duncan's *The River Why*.

In the innocence that was pre-Vietnam America, angler Gus Orviston strikes out from his eccentric family to search for solitude along his most beloved Oregon river. Escaping an upbringing he defines as "The Great Izaak Walton Controversy" — where his fly fishing father and bait-soaking mother can each drum out of *The Compleat Angler* whatever support for whatever argument they are ensconced in at the time — Gus unexpectedly collides with man's wanton abuse of nature and discovers, within himself, a passion to dedicate himself to its preservation.

*The River Why* (Sierra Club, softcover, \$14.95) has been compared not only to *A River Runs Through It*, but also *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and *Catch-22*. If you missed it the first time around, pick up a copy of the 20th Anniversary Edition. If you bought it 20 years ago, now's the time to replace that tattered, dogeared, broken-spined and beloved copy with a fresh one.

—Susan L. Ebert



## 2002 Lone Star Land Steward State Winner



### Womack Family Ranch Jess and Lou Womack (Victoria County)

Descendants of a pioneer ranching and farming family, Jess and Lou Womack made it a goal to restore the wetlands habitat on their 8,500-acre Womack Family Ranch, once part of the historic 34,000-acre McFaddin Ranch that was partitioned in 1991. Through the Womack's efforts, 50 percent of their diverse acreage has become fruitful wetlands, attracting more than 250 bird species including bald eagles and peregrine falcons. An unexpected benefit is the proliferation of crawfish, blue crab, alligator gar and catfish, which the Womacks recently began harvesting for sale. Large counts of ducks, geese and other waterfowl visit the wetlands on annual migrations. The ranch's upland acreage contains croplands and pastures. For this area, the Womacks apply prescribed burning, rotational grazing and reduced herbicides.

### Sponsors for the 2002 Lone Star Land Steward Award

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Lower Colorado River Authority

#### Other Contributors:

Texas Wildlife Association • Texas Farm Bureau  
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# Comfort Control

*Dressing in layers is the best way to ensure comfort in Texas' unpredictable winter weather.*

Texas game and fish do not live in climate-controlled environments. In few places in the lower 48 states does a hunter roam such a diversity of countryside or experience such dramatic shifts in weather, often during a single day. To meet the challenge of staying both comfortable and safe, learn to dress in layers.

The system most experts recommend for strenuous outdoor activity has three components: an inner layer next to the skin that efficiently transfers perspiration to outer garments, an insulating outer layer that provides dead air space for warmth and a shell that defeats wind and keeps rain out while allowing water vapor created by body heat to pass through and evaporate.

## The Inner Layer

The inner clothing layer or base garment works in one of two ways: by wicking sweat to outer layers of clothing or by absorbing the moisture deep into fibers, so that the fabric closest to the skin remains dry. Polypropylene and polyester are wicking fabrics. Wool and silk are absorbing fabrics. The latter have a place during autumn and winter hunting seasons. In Texas, however, midday temperatures can be uncomfortably warm even in December.

Polypropylene was the first synthetic touted for its superior wicking properties. Never before had outdoorsmen been offered a flyweight garment that sucked sweat away from the body as quickly as it was produced. On the other hand, never before had they smelled so bad, which isn't what you want when rattling in a whitetail buck. Today's polypro doesn't retain odors to the same degree, but pure polyester weaves, such as CoolMax and Thermax, may be better choices. Buy the lightweight versions; medium and expedition weights are overkill.

## The Outer Layer

In hot weather, clothes worn next to the skin also serve as the outer layer. Cotton is much maligned for its eagerness to soak up sweat, but as an outer layer in dry climates it's OK, especially when blended with nylon, which adds a measure of wind-resistance and hastens the drying process. A cotton/nylon-blend long-sleeve shirt worn over a CoolMax undershirt and coupled with pants that have zip-off legs is a versatile combination for early fall hunting.

In cool weather, the two-fold purpose of the outer layer is to create dead air space for trapping body warmth and to wick water vapor to the outside fibers, where it can evaporate. No fabric does this more efficiently than fleece, which is composed of spun polyester or nylon fibers. In addition, fleece

For maximum comfort in cold weather, wear an inner layer that will wick sweat away from the body, an outer layer to create a dead air space for trapping body warmth and a shell made of a rainproof fabric.



## Clothing Checklist for Hot Weather

- synthetic undershorts and T-shirt
- cotton or nylon shorts or zip-off pants
- cotton, polyester or polyester/nylon-blend shirt
- broad-brimmed hat
- bandanna to dip in water for evaporative cooling
- synthetic sports-blend socks

## Clothing Checklist For Cold Weather

- synthetic undershorts
- lightweight, synthetic undershirt and long johns
- wool, saddle cloth or fleece pants
- chamois, micro-fleece or wool shirt
- fleece or light wool jacket
- waterproof/breathable rain gear or poncho
- leather gloves for protection against thorns
- fleece or wool hat
- silk scarf
- synthetic sports-blend socks or polypropylene liner socks with wool blend outer sock



is hard-wearing and extremely lightweight. However, fleece is porous, reducing its insulative value if you don't have a shell to wear over the top. Many makers sew wind-resistant linings into their jackets, but I question the wisdom of this so-called "improvement." One of the great properties of fleece is its breathability, which allows it to be worn comfortably across a broad range of temperatures. It's a relatively simple matter to slip your arms into the sleeves of a shell during rest stops to prevent chill.

Two other drawbacks to fleece are that it picks up burrs and offers minimal protection against thorns. If this is a concern, you might want to leaf through the pages of a Cabela's catalog. Some of the micro fibers advertised in the traditional camo patterns for pants and jackets have a dense, smooth nap to keep the pricklers at bay.

## The Shell

In inclement weather, a shell or parka incorporating a breathable, rainproof fabric such as Gore-Tex is worth the money you pay for it; in drier environs, it's unnecessarily hard on the pocketbook. An inexpensive windshirt, worn between a wicking undershirt and a fleece jacket, will add a surprising degree of warmth on breezy days. Pack along a generously cut poncho that can be stretched between shrubs or tree trunks to make a wind and rainproof shelter and, short of a tornado, you ought to be able to comfortably withstand most weather the Lone Star State can throw your way.

A final word: If you're the kind of hunter who wears out boot leather, consider extending the layering principle to your feet. An inner sock of thin polypropylene coupled with an outer sock of wool or synthetic blend reduces blistering. ★

FIELD TEST / BY GIBBS MILLIKEN

# Fleece Clothing

*Quiet and comfortable synthetic fleece offers plush warmth and stealth in the outdoors.*

The original fleece clothing was made of natural short wool, fur pelts and suede leather. These were the garments of choice for comfort on the frontier. The main drawbacks were moisture absorption and rapid soiling. Today, some advanced, man-made fabrics and coatings have solved these basic problems of soft-surfaced materials.

Innovative fleece fabrics and designs now are available from most manufacturers of outdoor clothing. Some lines have modular components like the Browning Exchange System. A light outer shell such as the waterproof **Hydro Fleece Gore-Tex N/I Jacket** (\$245, Browning, (800) 333-3504, <www.browning.com>) has optional types of liners that can be added or subtracted as conditions and climates demand. Each garment is marked with the Browning Exchange logo indicating it will zip in or otherwise match the apparel system. The addition of a **Technical Fleece Vest** (\$50, model TF-300, Browning) and **Hydro Fleece Pants** (\$225, Browning) forms a complete Mossy Oak Break Up camo outfit that also comes with scent-suppressant properties formulated into the fabric.

Garments in other forms of fleece are available, from undergarments to outerwear, including head covers, socks and gloves. Very comfortable underwear and mid-layer insulation are stretchable designs like the **Omni-Therm Stretch Pullover and Long Pants** (\$67, style SM6382, safari color, long-sleeve pullover and \$60, model SM8069 full-length pants in black, Columbia Sportswear, (800) 547-8066, <www.columbia.com>). These offer ideal all-direction mobility when worn under waders and other waterproof outerwear.

Looking for excellent concealment? Try the **Natural Gear Jacket and Pants** (\$75, hooded jacket, \$69, stirrup pants,



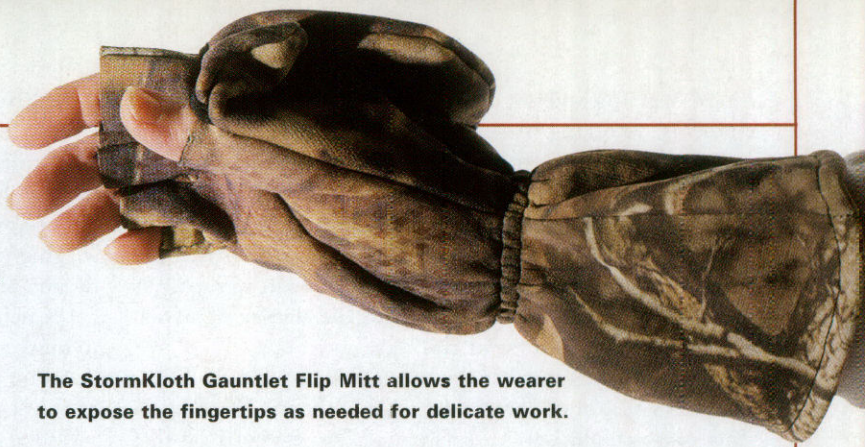
**Browning Hydro Fleece jacket and pants.**



## FIELD TEST CONTINUED

Natural Gear, (800) 590-5590, <www.natural-gear.com>). This unique camouflage pattern blends well into most Texas winter landscapes. Constructed of thick, unlined, non-waterproof plush fleece, it is intended for dry, cold conditions, or it can be worn over a waterproof layer.

Some of the most innovative fleece products are made of StormKloth, a multi-layered combination of micro-fleece, nylon and a monolithic proprietary membrane that keeps you warm, dry and comfortable even in the most severe weather. Best of all, it is lightweight, fully stretchable, breathable, waterproof, wind proof, durable and quiet. We field-tested their **Base Layer Pants** (\$79.99, style #56, (800) 755-6944, <www.stormkloth.com>) and **Cargo Outer Pants** (\$99.99, StormKloth) by wading in deep snow for hours at subfreezing temperatures, where they outperformed any insulating fabric we have ever used. Combined with their calf-length **Long Thermal Socks** (\$24.99, style #38, StormKloth), you feel comfortably



The StormKloth Gauntlet Flip Mitt allows the wearer to expose the fingertips as needed for delicate work.

erwear on cool days and serve as layering under other clothing if the temperature suddenly drops. They come treated with water-resistant Teflon and have stirrup feet to prevent the pants legs from pulling up out of your boots.

Another medium-weight, high thermal efficiency fleece is the **Delta RS Jacket** (\$125, color: mist, Arc'teryx Equipment, (800) 985-6681, <www.arcteryx.com>) made of Polartec polyester. This is an excellent choice for active winter sports or as casual clothing available in several colors, men's and



From left: Delta RS Jacket, Browning Technical Fleece Vest, StormKloth Cargo Outer Pants Below: StormKloth Balaclava.

sealed. Feet dry as perspiration is wicked away while retaining the warmth. The same is true of the lightweight **Gauntlet Flip Mitt** (\$34.99, style #46, StormKloth) made in a fingertip-free design with a mitten flap for outdoor activities that require delicate manipulations without interference. In extreme cold, extra insulation is provided by the **Glove Mitt** (\$39.99, style #47OD-HC, StormKloth), with a double layer of thermal material for maximum protection. Finally, add a **Thermal Mask/Neck Gaiter** (\$19.99, style #37, StormKloth) or **Balaclava** (\$29.99, style #41, StormKloth) of the same fabric and you are covered for almost any cold weather situation. Most StormKloth products are available in men's and women's sizes in black, Mossy Oak or Realtree camouflage patterns.

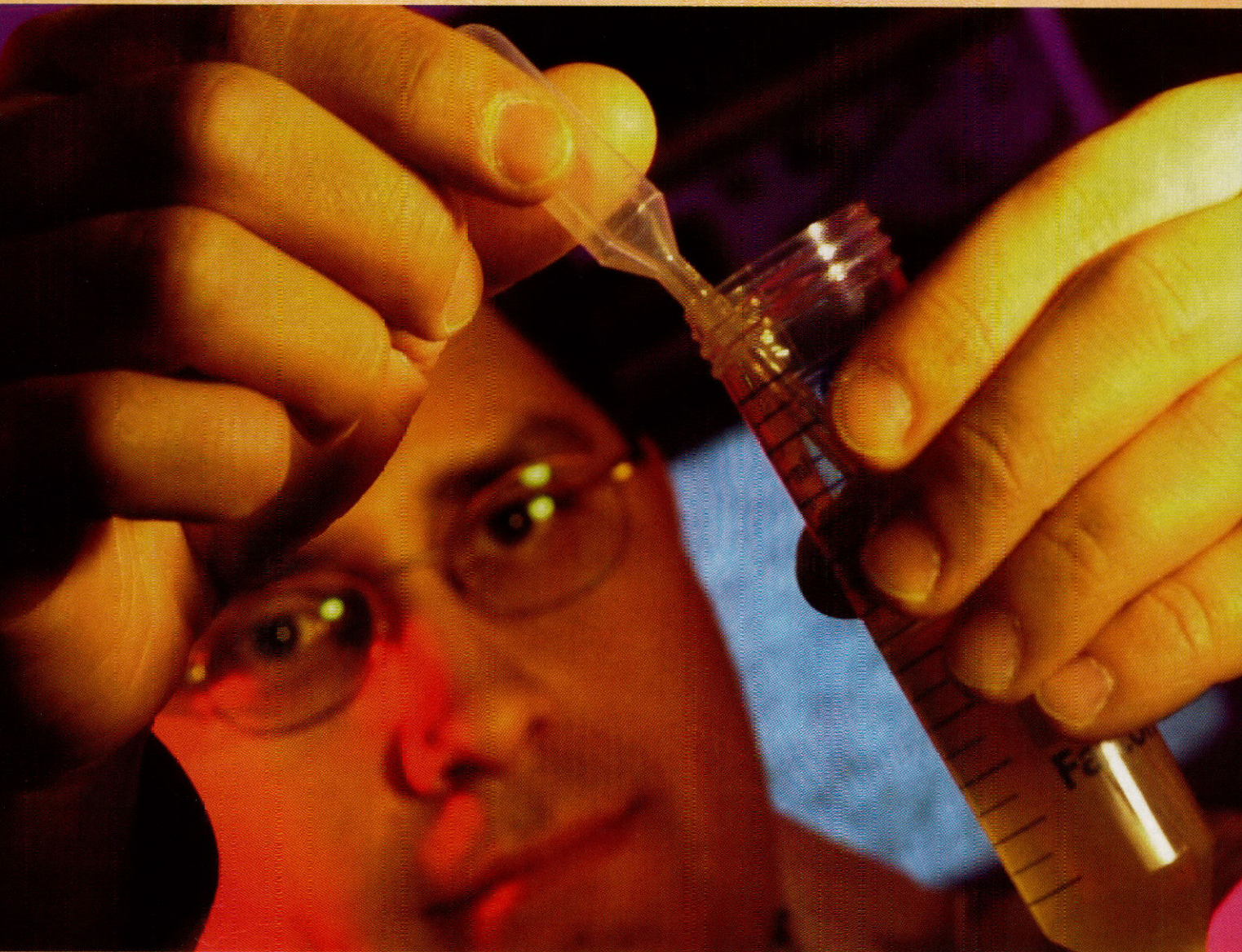
Most fleece is multi-functional and super-soft like the **Browning Micro Fleece Pants** (\$77 in camo, \$70 in solid colors, model 302, Browning). These can be worn as out-

women's sizes. The design and construction of this garment are of the highest quality, with both the inside and outside having the look and feel of soft fur.

Beyond clothing, synthetic fleece now covers a wide range of accessories from packs, hunting seats and arrow quivers to hats, booties and water bottle holders. The thinking is that anything that comes in contact with brush, tree bark or limbs will send warning sounds to wildlife and the soft non-reflective surface aids concealment. Fleece is certainly becoming universal as a means to greater stealth in the woods. ★







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# 3 Days in the Field / By Larry D. Hodge

## DESTINATION: CHINATI HOT SPRINGS

TRAVEL TIME FROM :

AMARILLO – 11 hours / AUSTIN – 10 hours / BROWNSVILLE – 14 hours / DALLAS – 12 hours / EL PASO – 5 hours  
HOUSTON – 12 hours / SAN ANTONIO – 9 hours

## Soothing Springs

Darkness catches me halfway through Pinto Canyon, a spectacular gorge southwest of Marfa.

The road I'm traveling is an old one; it's been used by ranchers, army troops chasing Pancho Villa and modern-day drug smugglers. Today it's traveled mainly by seekers of ease at my destination, the Chinati Hot Springs resort.

F.M. 2810 peters out 32 miles from Marfa, but before it does I spot a herd of pronghorns just over the fence. Bumping along the washboarded caliche road that leads the last 20 miles to the Rio Grande, I sink into Pinto Canyon as the sun smears gold and red streaks behind the Cuesta del Burro and Sierra Vieja mountains to my right. On my left the Chinati Mountains, jagged and rough in daylight, transform into soft purple pillows. Twice poorwills flutter from the road as I approach. Their membership in the goatsucker family makes them cousins of the mythical chupacabra. If such did exist, this magnificently desolate country is where I would look for it first.

Manager Wendy Harbin welcomes me to Chinati Hot Springs, though the warmth of her greeting pales in comparison to the tail-wagging antics of resident dogs Bully and Hermantito. After being thoroughly sniffed, I unload my

gear and immediately take advantage of the 7-foot sunken tub in my room. The 109-degree mineral water is the perfect antidote for too many hours in the car. Once again I am reminded that Big Bend's remoteness is both its curse and its blessing.

At dawn I walk along Hot Springs Creek, which runs just 20 yards from my cabin. Birds bring the bushes and cottonwood trees alive. A killdeer flits along the side of the draw, while black and Say's phoebes preen and pose atop rocks, stumps and cottonwood trees. A cactus wren reveals its presence first with its call and then offers me a leisurely look. In a walk of no more than 300 yards I also see a Bewick's wren and blue-gray gnatcatchers playing tag around a creosote bush. I hear but never see hawks riding the morning thermals above the desert.

Roadrunners work the cabin area for brunch as I return from my walk. Over the next two days at various locations at the hot springs and nearby I see cactus wrens, ruby-crowned kinglets, canyon towhees, northern cardinals and pyrrhuloxias.

PHOTO BY LARRY D. HODGE

Gambel's quail visit the La Junta General Store in Ruidosa about noon daily.





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GET THE FEELING







**Clockwise from top left: Chinati Hot Springs resort sprawls along Hot Springs Creek; javelina are plentiful on the Ocotillo Unit of Las Palomas WMA; Hot Springs Creek is a thin ribbon of abundant life in the desert; playful visitors to Chinati Hot Springs amuse themselves with "rock art."**

I've often thought of desert streams as being like islands turned inside out, with the land surrounding the water. A stream no more than a foot wide and two inches deep spreads a bountiful buffet of life with multiple main dishes; by comparison, the relatively few species offered by the desert are merely dessert. In one tiny pool after another I find tadpoles, planaria, damselfly and dragonfly nymphs and backswimmers stroking through the water. The abundance of water-borne life inches from arid rocks impresses upon me the precious nature of water in the desert far more than anything else could.

An after-lunch visit to the Ocotillo Unit of the Las Palomas WMA, seven miles away by dirt road, is postponed by the arrival of strong winds carrying a heavy load of dust from the bed of the Rio Grande. I pass the time with another soak in the hot tub and a perusal of bird, plant, reptile, amphibian and mammal field guides. Dust veils even the mighty Chinatis for a time, but by evening the air is so clear it seems the stars will cut my eyes if I look at them carelessly. A half-moon obscures only the faintest stars, and to the northeast the Big Dipper stands on its tail, pointing to the North Star across the creek. At creek's edge, a male Great Plains leopard frog advertises his presence to females, sounding like a thumb rubbed across a balloon.

As I sit eating my supper of salmon fillet, ribeye steak and baked potato cocked on the outdoor grill, Bully and Hermanito — who had declared themselves my best friends the instant the steak hit the grill — suddenly abandon me, dash across the creek and up the slope opposite. The reason flashes briefly into view: a gray fox darting up the hillside. The next

night I learn this is a regular occurrence and one of the high points of the canine contingent's day.

The Big Dipper is standing on its head the next morning as I pack my gear for a trip to the Ocotillo Unit of Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area in pursuit of scaled quail. The thermometer reads 40 degrees, but the air perfumed by creosote bush is calm and feels absolutely wonderful. Morning desert air and fine wine seem to me close kin — soft but with an edge, pure yet laden with muted undertones of a rich complexity of flavors.

At the Ocotillo Unit, the box canyon behind Gate 7 beckons. For the first 200 yards silence presses down upon me. However, plentiful javelina tracks in the sandy bed of the wash promise more. Suddenly, there he is, standing not 30 yards away, every



hair on his back erect. Then, as my eyes become accustomed to looking for javelina profiles, one after another materializes among the creosote bush and catclaw. Four troop across a slope 20 yards away, then a clatter of rocks on the opposite side of the canyon draws my gaze. Two groups of young javelinas dash for the rimrock along a narrow ledge as several adults streak along the base of the cliff.

As I near the head of the canyon, white-throated swifts swoop from holes in the cliff face to catch their breakfast of flying insects. The quail that I seek are breakfasting somewhere else.

That somewhere else turns out to be the La Junta General Store in the hamlet of Ruidosa, which lies just a mile east of the Ocotillo Unit on FM 170. Proprietor Celia Hill scatters a coffee can full of maize at the edge of the parking lot as I watch. "The blue quail show up about noon every day," she explains. But what comes sprinting down the hill instead to gobble up the free groceries seems unreal. I have never seen Gambel's quail before, though I know they range along the Rio Grande. Now there are 30 or more busily pecking away just yards from me, their little teardrop topknots bobbing.

Seeing the quail is the perfect send-off for a drive along FM 170 from Ruidosa to Lajitas. Much of the drive is through Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area, and a slow pace rewards me with sightings of loggerhead shrikes, common ravens, road-runners and even a few ducks on the river. I saw my only mountain lion in the wild along this road a few years ago, and I can still remember how its long tail stretched out behind as it ran, then stopped and looked at me from 10 feet away as I stopped my car. Water had worked its magic in the desert that

day, too: the cat was heading back into the Chinatis after drinking from the Rio Grande.

That evening there's time for another soak in the soothing water of the hot springs before packing for the return home. Bully and Hermantito entertain me by begging for scraps from my supper. The Chinatis glow softly in the moonlight, and the creek seems to murmur, "You'll be back."

You can count on that. ☆

### Getting There

This resort is way past the middle of nowhere. Presidio or Marfa offer the last chance for gasoline; a small store at Ruidosa, seven miles away by dirt road, has basic groceries. While ordinary passenger vehicles can make the trip, good tires are a must, and an extra spare is recommended. RVs should not attempt the Pinto Canyon road (FM 2810 from Marfa; the first 32 miles are paved; the last 20 are not). From Presidio, take FM 170 north to Ruidosa, then Hot Springs Road.

Be prepared to cook your own meals, either in the community kitchen or over a campfire. Your cell phone will not work here, but the staff will take phone messages and post them at the office. Both cabins and tent camping are available, along with hot mineral baths. Drinking water is available.

For more information contact Chinati Hot Springs: (915) 229-4165; <[www.chinatihotsprings.org](http://www.chinatihotsprings.org)>.

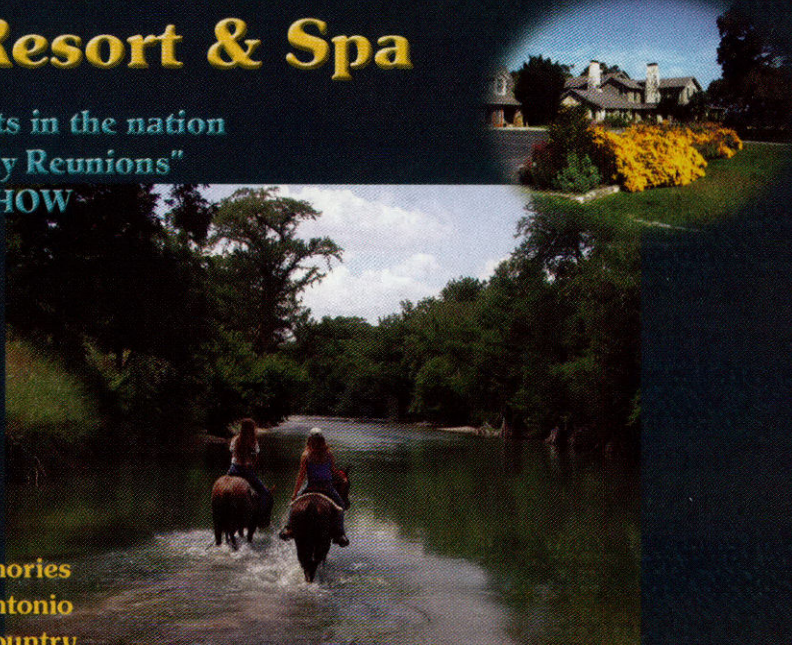
Birding and hiking are available on the property and at the nearby Ocotillo Unit of Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area. For guided birding trips, contact Jim and Barbara Hines of Big Bend Birding Expeditions: (915) 371-2556; e-mail [bbbe@brooksdata.net](mailto:bbbe@brooksdata.net).

## Guadalupe River Ranch Resort & Spa

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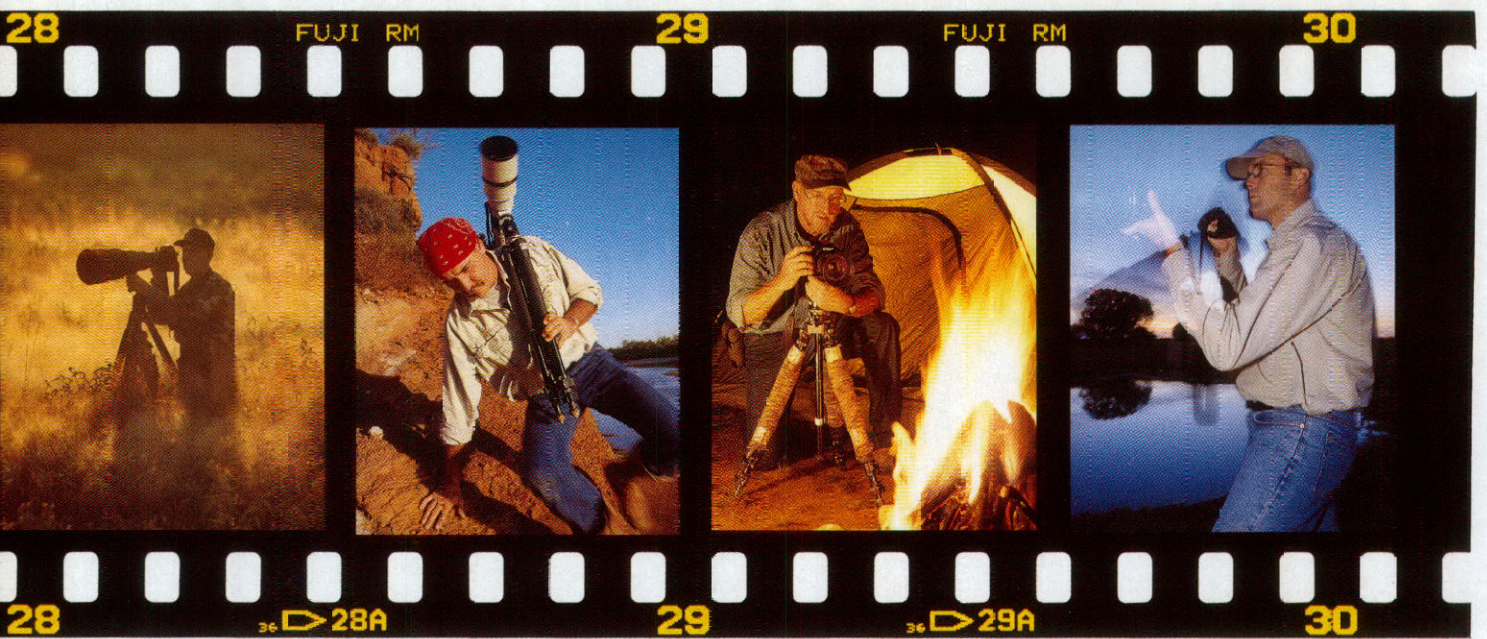
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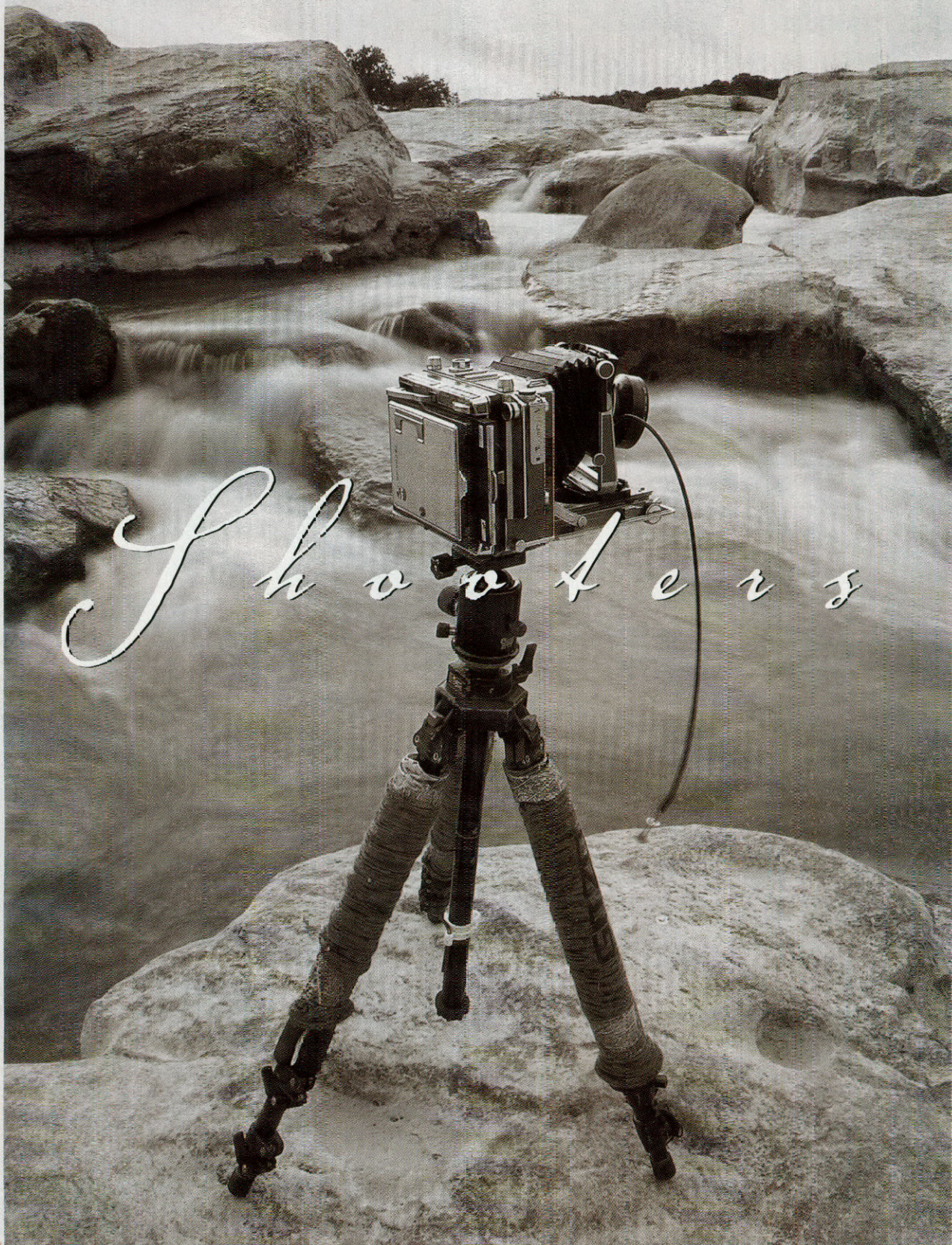
WHAT GOES INTO THE MAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH? I TOOK A PILGRIMAGE ACROSS TEXAS TO PHOTOGRAPH SOME OF THE BEST WILDLIFE AND OUTDOORS PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE NATION AS THEY PLY THEIR TRADE.

*Article and photos by Scott Sommerlatte*

# Shooting A h

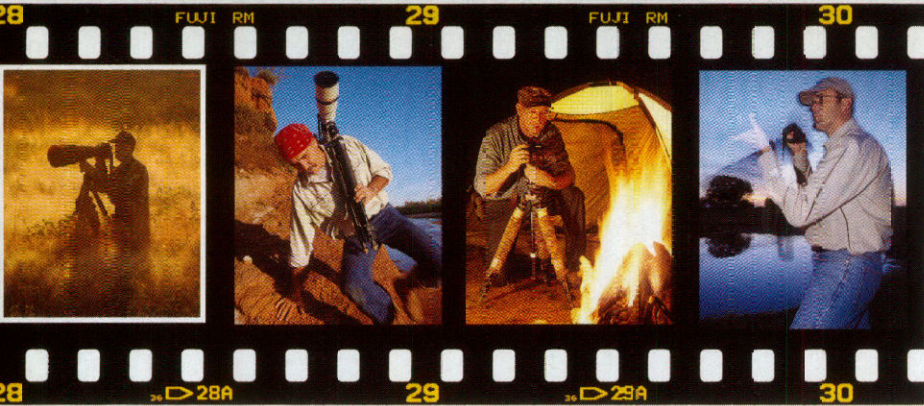
I'll confess: I pick up a magazine, flip through the pages to check out the photos and, if nothing captures my attention, I'll move on. But, if an image does happen to grab my eye, I might spend the next hour perusing the pages of the publication so as to learn more. \* The simple fact is, humans respond more quickly to visual stimuli than just about anything else. It is for this very reason that photography is such an important part of any publication and a hallmark of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. In no small part, much of the credit for these images goes to the four photographers listed on the masthead of this publication as contributing photographers. \* While many great photographers have graced the pages of *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, the work of Grady Allen, Wyman Meinzer, Earl Nottingham and David J. Sams seem to take up as much space as the text. While each one of these individuals is a master of his craft, each brings his own perspective to the magazine's pages. And, while they each contribute their own certain style or "eye," they all have one thing in common: their images are Texas, through and through. \* To really appreciate their work, ask yourself, "What is a photograph?" Some would say it is no more than a moment in time that has been captured forever, through the wonders of science, to be preserved or cherished for a lifetime. Others would say it is a method of communicating with others or, better yet, art. A literal translation from the Greek language, combining "photo" and "graph" translates as "light drawing." Taking it a step further, I would call it "painting with light." \* As with any great drawing or painting, a great photograph takes work, dedication and skill. It also requires a knowledge of light and equipment, preparation and, in some cases, more patience than the average person can muster. These attributes, combined with an eye for composition, are what make a photograph great. I visited with each of this magazine's contributing photographers to learn more about his unique perspectives.





e  
S h o t e r s





tenth of the film many other photographers expend. With the quiet serenity of a Zen master, Allen will carefully compose and meter his subject, ensuring that everything is perfect before he releases the shutter.

Someone once told me, "Grady Allen has the patience of a rock and the determination of a buck in rut." After many years of admiring and studying his work, then spending some time to get to know

## Grady Allen

Speaking of great photos, how many of you noticed the awesome photograph in the August 2002 issue by Grady Allen: of an alligator, its head raised above the water, staring down a piece of meat on a hook? This kind of powerful image makes Allen's work stand out in the world of wildlife photography.

While Allen's name is usually associated with up-close images of Texas' majestic wildlife, this El Campo resident has another claim to fame. He is a champion calf roper and the first left-handed roper ever to make it to the National Finals. To hear him talk about it, it's no big deal; but to hear a few longtime El Campo residents tell the story, well, you might think differently.

Allen's love for the outdoors becomes evident as we speak, especially when we start talking about conservation and the turn that hunting and fishing has taken in the last two decades. This is what sparked his interest in and love for photography.

A longtime deer hunter, Allen became disenchanted with how commercial hunting had become. Feeling that high fencing and big money leases had turned what used to be hunting into shooting, he put down his gun and picked up a camera.

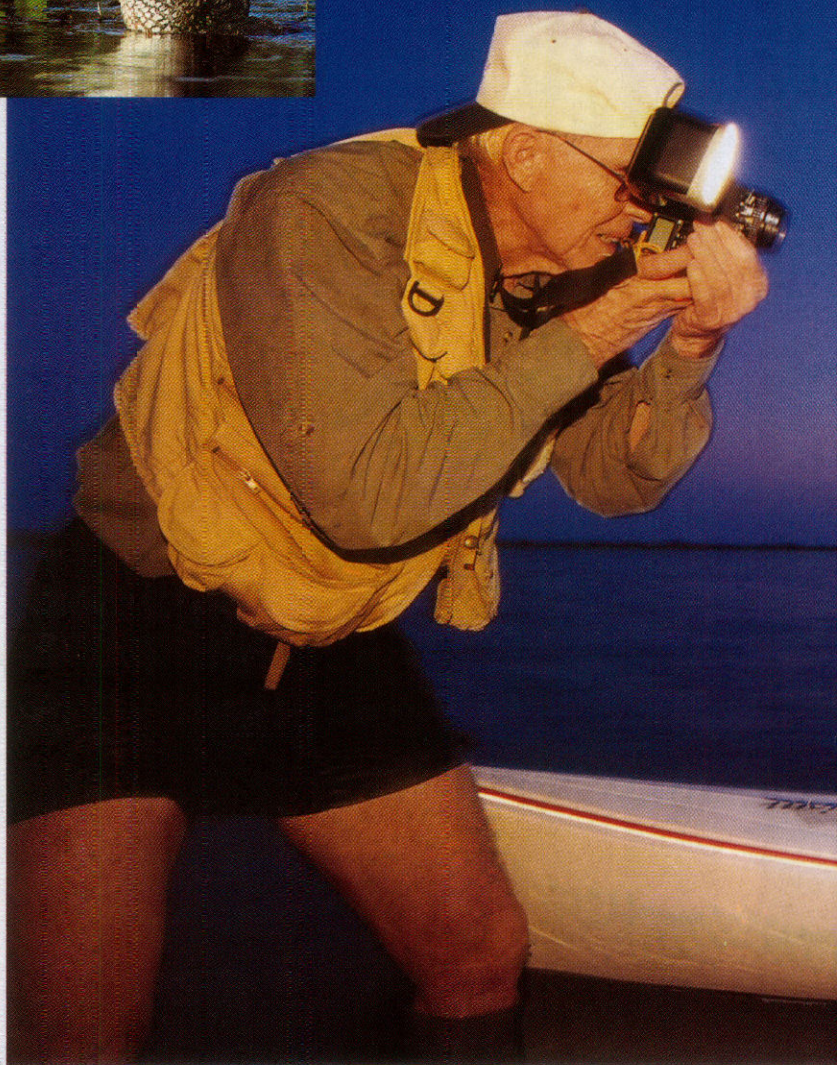
Now a veteran photographer of 25 years, Allen has spent most of his life making a living off the land as a rancher and farmer, an occupation that has provided him with many valuable connections with landowners. These connections, along with a pleasant demeanor and a genuine respect for the land, are why Allen is welcomed with a smile and a handshake at ranch gates all over the state.

A self-taught photographer, Allen has seen his wildlife images published in *Field & Stream*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield* and many other major outdoor publications; his aerial photos of the excavation of the French explorer LaSalle's ship in Matagorda Bay appeared in *National Geographic* and several European magazines.

Allen takes a different approach to photography than most: he shoots about one-



PHOTO © GRADY ALLEN





him, I can assure you that these qualities are the fuel that propels the incredible images that he produces.

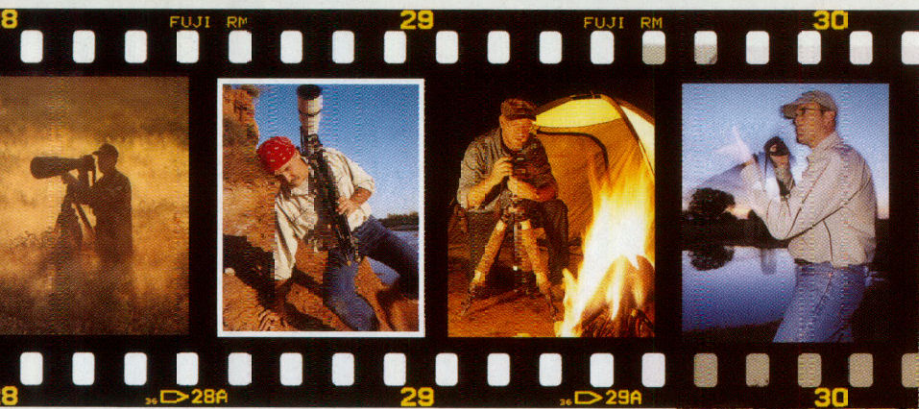
**TIP:** "Proper exposure is everything," says Allen, "and it's not something that you just pick up a camera and get every time — even with the new high-tech cameras today." He also added, "If you are really interested in getting into serious photography, take classes and learn the technical aspects of photography."

*There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.*

—ANSEL ADAMS







## Wyman Meinzer

As a lad of 12 with his first camera, Wyman Meinzer couldn't have known that one day he would be honored for his work by a future president. After the 75th legislative session in Austin, then-Gov. George W. Bush bestowed on him the title of Official State Photographer of Texas.

Known mostly for his dramatic images of wildlife and powerful landscapes, Meinzer, a self-taught photographer, truly is master of his world. And, while he has a degree in wildlife management from Texas Tech University, where he now teaches photography, he attributes most of his knowledge about wildlife and the land to his childhood work with a camera.

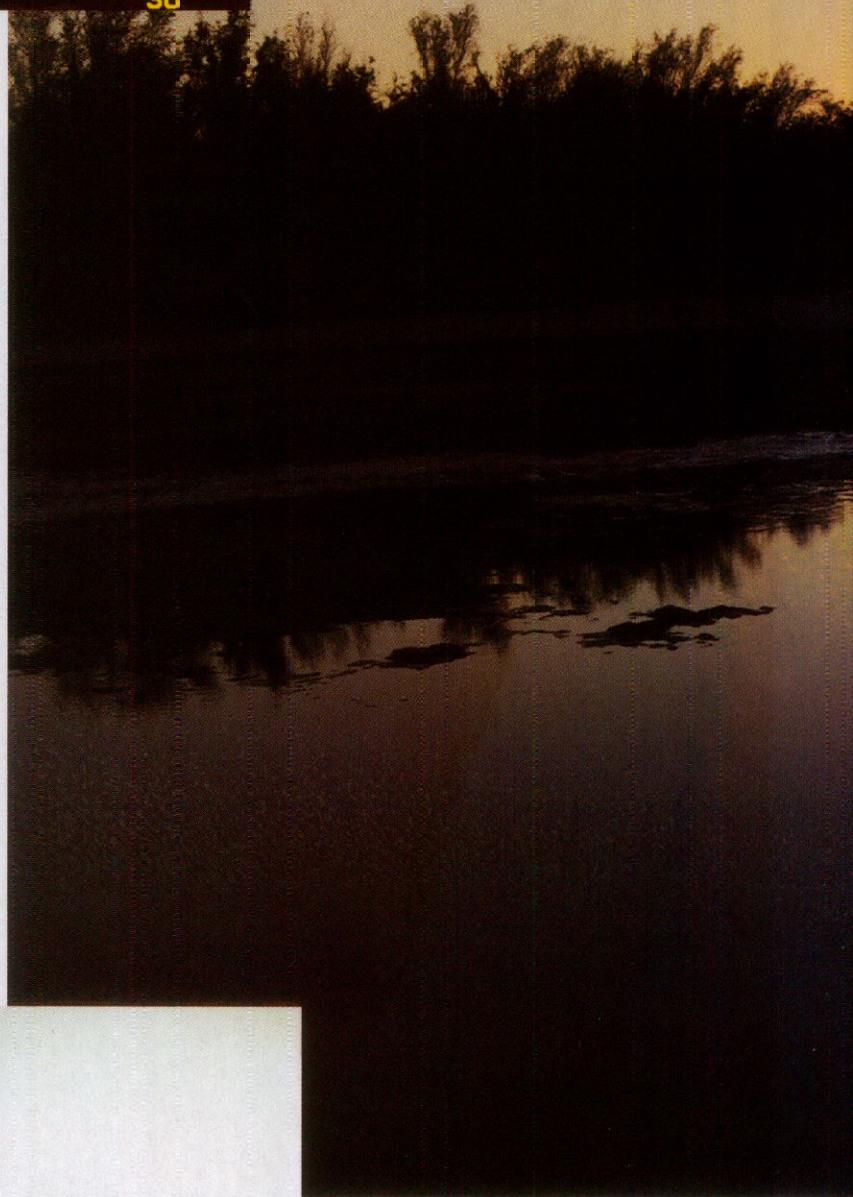
As a youngster, Meinzer spent time hunting, trapping and exploring the countryside. He became fascinated with coyotes, and in college he received a grant to study the animals. His professor loaned him a 35mm camera and in 1973 Meinzer bought his first "good" 35mm camera, a Canon T<sub>7</sub>. In 1979, he sold his first image. His career as a wildlife photographer had just shifted into high gear.

Throughout the '80s and early '90s, Meinzer continued to create quality wildlife images that peppered all of the first-rate national outdoor publications, including *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life* and *Sports Afield*. It was during this time that he shot one of his most popular images.

Setting out to shoot prairie dog photos after a January snowstorm, Meinzer captured the image of two yellow eyes, belonging to a burrowing owl, peering over a snowdrift. This memorable image is just one of many spectacular wildlife photos he has created over the years. In the late '80s, however, the photography market became saturated with images of caged animals and high-fenced deer and Meinzer's interests shifted somewhat.

"I guess that's why I stopped shooting wildlife and have shifted my focus to landscapes and more scenic subjects," Meinzer says of his most current work. "I like for my work to mean something and I like to shoot subjects that will have an impact."

PHOTO © WYMAN MEINZER



This shift is definitely evident if you look at some of his most current books. *Texas Sky* and *Texas Rivers* contain some of Meinzer's finest work. One of my favorites is an image of a single lightning strike framed by a brilliant rainbow against an orange sky. Recently, when talking shop with Meinzer, I chortled at his boyish enthusiasm when I mentioned that photograph. "I can't help it," he said.





"I get excited whenever the light is right."

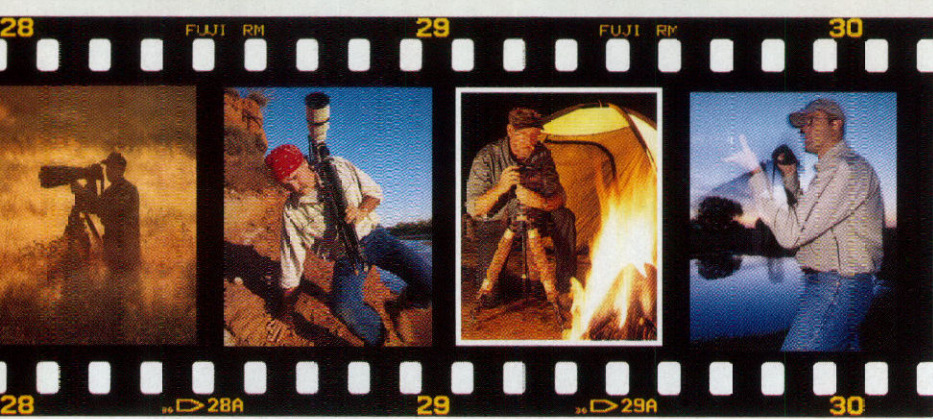
Currently, Meinzer is traveling around the state photographing windmills for a new book. As with any of his work, his appetite for the project knows no bounds.

**TIP:** "When you set out to take pictures, have a goal and know what you want to achieve," says Meinzer. "Great pictures don't just happen. They take hard work and dedication."

*You can't depend on your eyes if your imagination is out of focus.*

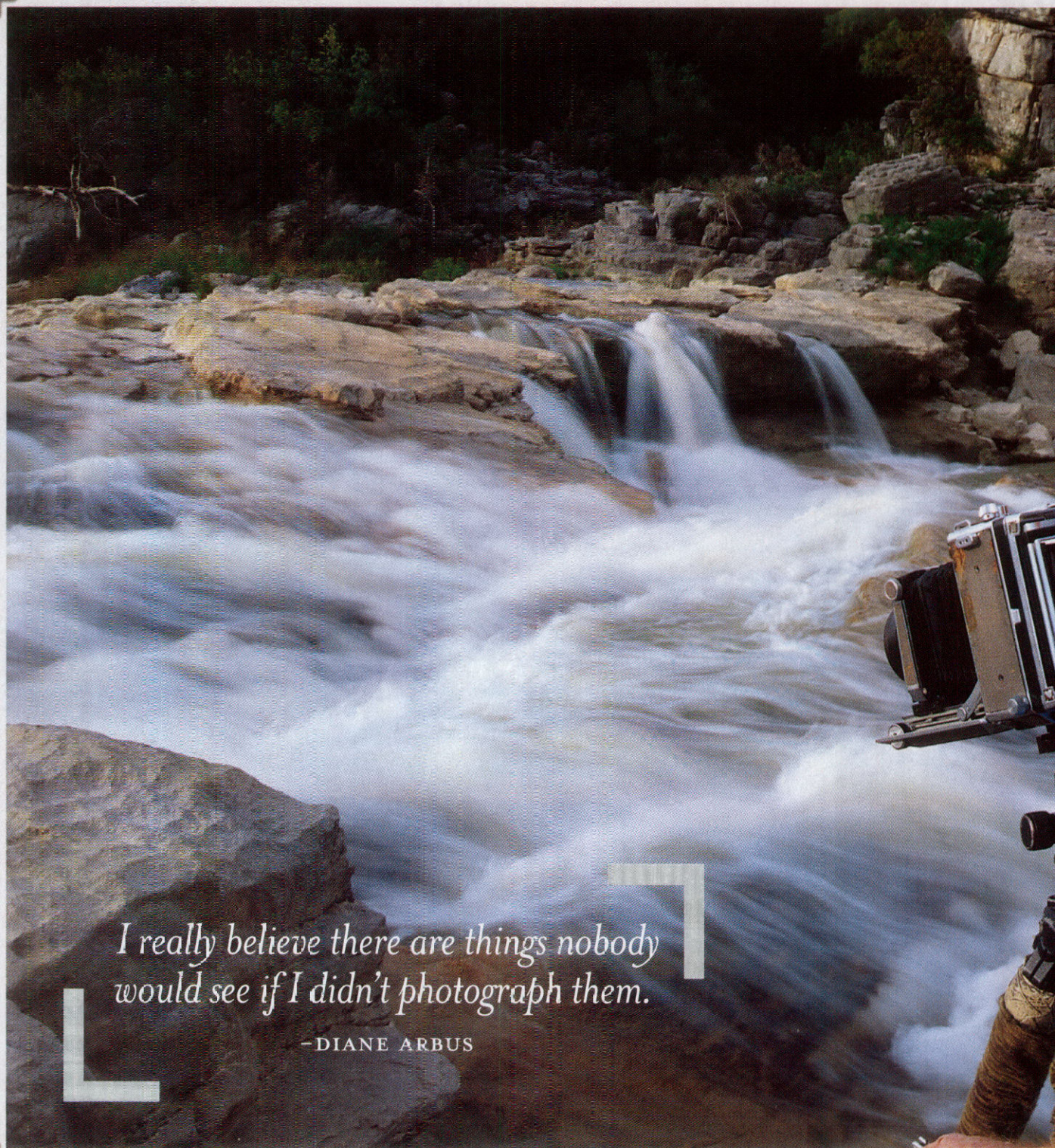
—MARK TWAIN





## Earl Nottingham

Black-and-white photography is a powerful medium for conveying a mood or sense of romance. It was for this very reason that *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine photo editor Bill Reaves and art director Mark Mahorsky selected one of Nottingham's black-and-white images from the shores of Lake Lydia for the February 2000 cover. Arriving at the East Texas lake on



*I really believe there are things nobody would see if I didn't photograph them.*

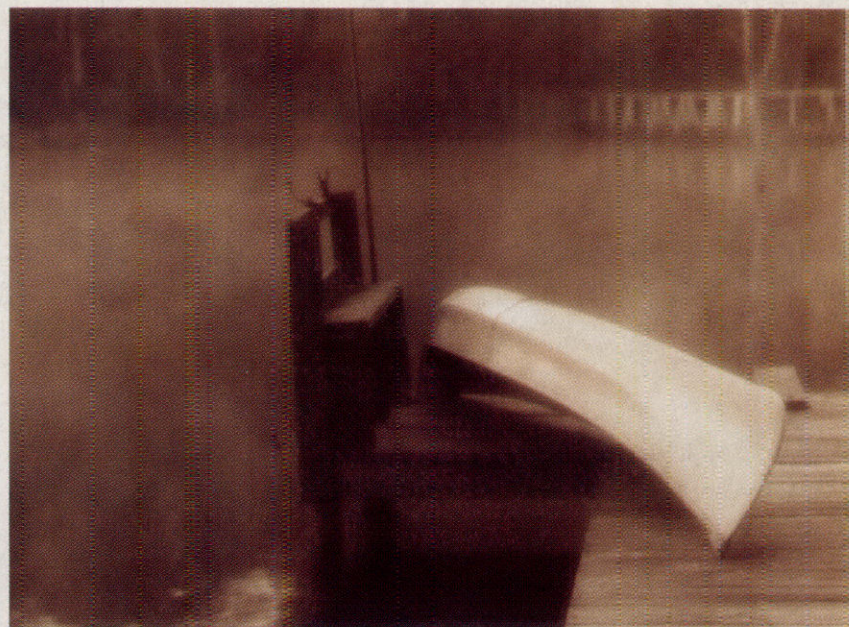
-DIANE ARBUS



assignment for the magazine, Nottingham determined that black-and-white photos would best capture the atmosphere of the location. It is this ability to capture — or in some cases, create — different moods on film that attracts my attention as I peruse the pages of this magazine.

As a young man, Nottingham enjoyed photographing the house cats around his neighborhood. He soon found that not only did he enjoy taking pictures, he had a knack for it. His growing passion for

PHOTO BY EARL NOTTINGHAM



photography propelled him to college, where he studied at the Art Institute of Atlanta and eventually received a Bachelor of Science degree in photography from East Texas State University.

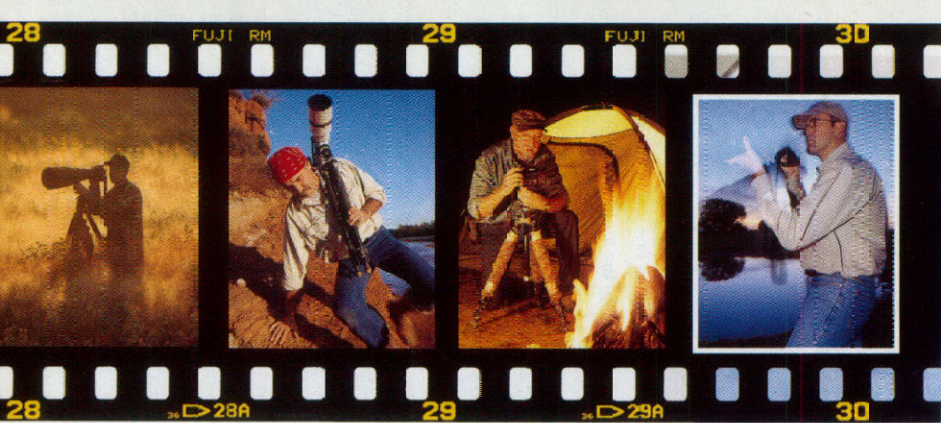
After graduation, Nottingham worked as a freelance photographer. His photos appeared in publications such as the *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Texas Highways* and, of course, *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, as well as numerous wildlife and seasonal calendars. To supplement his magazine and calendar work, Nottingham tackled commercial assignments.

In 1996, Nottingham accepted a position as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's staff photographer. In this varied and demanding role, he often can be found working in environments and situations that test his knowledge of photography to the fullest. He may be trying to capture the image of a unique or rare bird one day, and documenting an awards ceremony the next day. Versatility and dedication allow him to rise to the occasion. His images not only showcase his skill with a camera, they also reflect his love for the outdoors and Texas.

Talking with Nottingham, I immediately see that he loves what he does, and is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of natural Texas. When asked if he had any career goals or aspirations, his response was quick and simple: "To continue to use photography as a tool to positively change people's perception about the outdoors and conservation."

**TIP:** "If I had one piece of advice it would be this," says Nottingham. "Study your subject and get to know it before trying to photograph it."





## David J. Sams

Every photographer is known for a certain quality that shows in his work — whether that work appears in a book, magazine or any one of a number of other media. For David J. Sams, it is his ability to capture the interaction between people and nature. While portraits and still-life images are part of his portfolio, his true passion is for people in the outdoors.

Sams, who has been shooting professionally since 1986, studied journalism at San Antonio College and Sul Ross State University. After a brief stint as a newspaper photographer, he realized that he could accomplish much more on his own. Sams began his career as a freelance photographer, and hasn't looked back. He created Texas Inprint Photography, Inc., a successful stock agency, and markets his images not only to numerous publications but to advertising agencies and corporate clients as well.

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1988, Sams is always looking for a new perspective or twist on an old theme. This relentless search is why we see his work in the pages and on the covers of so many publications. Whether it's *Field & Stream* (where Sams is also recognized as a contributing photographer), or such stalwarts as *Newsweek*, Sams' work always stands out — so much so, that it was only a matter of time before he began showcasing his work in books.

His first solo project, a coffee table book entitled *Engulfed*, is a compilation of images that highlight Sams' passion for the Texas Gulf Coast. The book demonstrates his uncanny ability to capture magical moments on film and attests to his dedication in recording the interaction between people and the resource. *Engulfed* also is a testimony to the relationship between the photographer and the subject, whether the subject is human or animal. This relationship is never more evident than in two of my favorite photos. The first — the image for which Sams is best-known — is a redfish tail protruding above the water with the sun glistening.

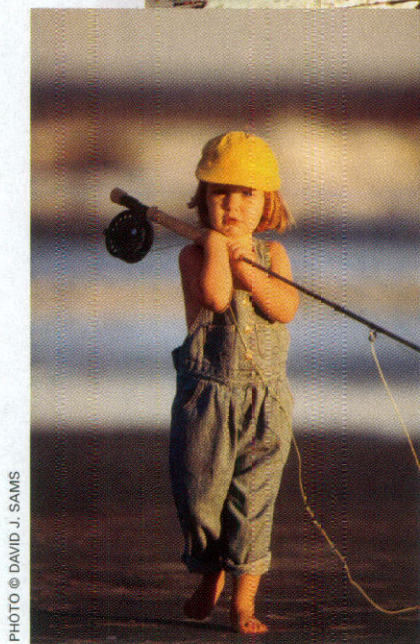


PHOTO © DAVID J. SAMs

The second is of his daughter, Mimi, awkwardly holding a fly rod on the beach; Sams has lovingly entitled this photo, "Okay, Papa, teach me."

I recently experienced the appreciation that Sams has for his friends and their efforts in making his photographs possible. After a long day on the water guiding, I returned to my fishing camp to find that Sams and his friend Perry Lowery, a contractor from Dallas, had torn out my old







bathroom. In a trailer out front was a brand new shower stall and toilet. When I asked him what he was doing, he smiled and replied, "Just trying to show a little appreciation for all of the help you've given me over the years."

**TIP:** "Light is everything," say Sams. "Getting up early, staying out late, and learning to use your flash correctly are all key elements in quality images."

*Once you really commence to see things, then you really commence to feel things.*

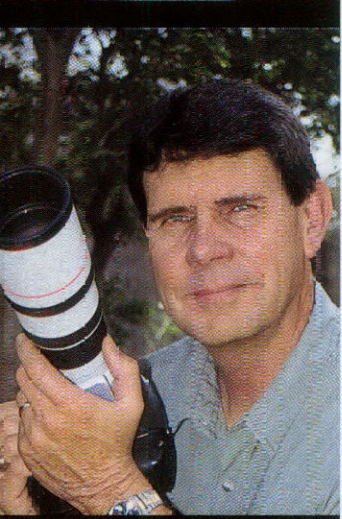
—EDWARD STEICHEN



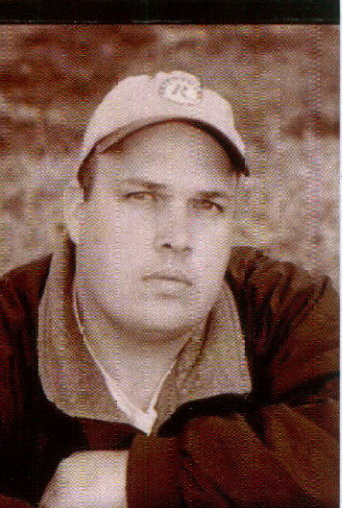
# Photographers



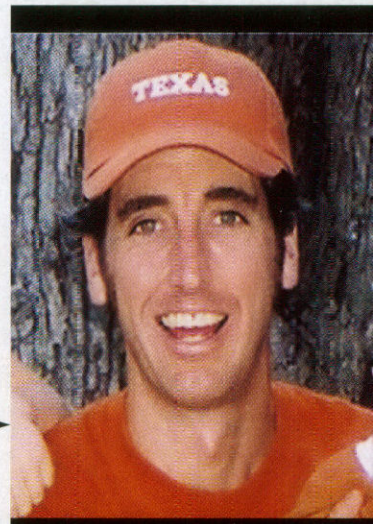
**KATHY ADAMS CLARK** has been a professional nature photographer since 1995. She runs a small stock agency that represents the work of eight outstanding nature photographers. Her photos appear weekly in the "Wonders of Nature" column in the *Houston Chronicle*, written by her husband, Gary Clark. She teaches photography in the Houston area, and presented more than 50 slide presentations to clubs and organizations in 2002.



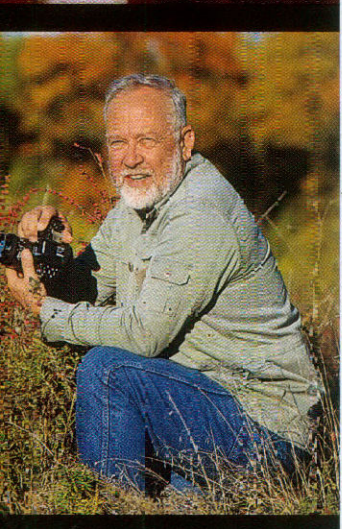
**LARRY DITTO** lives in McAllen and is a regular photo contributor to *Texas Parks & Wildlife*. For more than 25 years, his work has appeared in books, magazines and calendars. Ditto often appears at nature festivals and outdoor events to lead nature photography seminars. Much of his spare time is devoted to wildlife habitat conservation in South Texas, assisting the Valley Land Fund and Friends of the Wildlife Corridor.



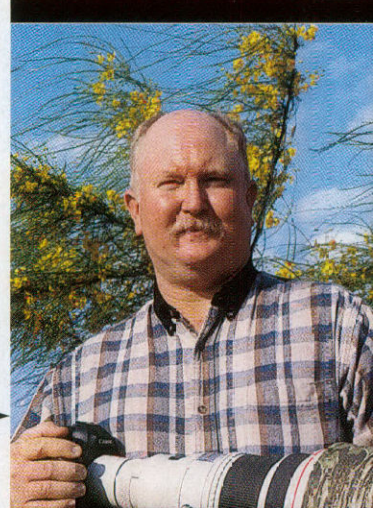
**CHARLES EDMISTON III** grew up in the Pineywoods of East Texas. After graduating from the University of Texas he spent time traveling, before going to culinary school. He worked as a chef in Austin before moving to Alaska for four years. He became interested in photography while working in the cruise industry there. He now does freelance photography for *Texas Parks & Wildlife* and lives in Austin with his wife and two children.



**RUSSELL GRAVES** began photography while still in high school. His images have appeared in numerous nationwide publications, but he insists that *Texas Parks & Wildlife* is his favorite. Graves is an agricultural science teacher at Childress High School, and in 2001 he was named Texas Agriscience Teacher of the Year and was runner-up for the national title. Recently, his second coffee table book was released: *Hunting Dogs – A Photographic Tribute*.



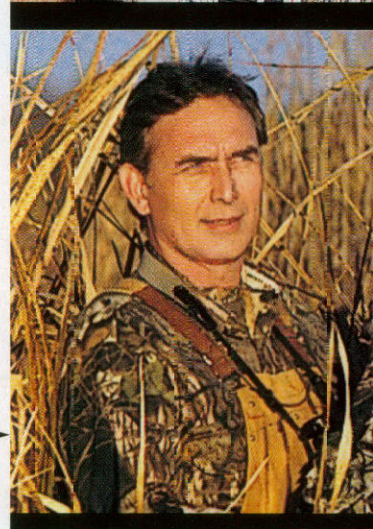
**GLENN HAYES** is a freelance wildlife photographer living in Markham, represented by KAC Productions. He was a member of a photo team that placed in the top five in the 1996, 1998 and 2000 Valley Land Fund Wildlife Photo contests and in the Coastal Bend Land Trust Photo Contest in 2001. He hopes that his photography will in some way help promote the preservation of the wildlife and habitats of Texas.



**LARRY D. HODGE** has been photographing and writing for Texas magazines for more than 20 years. His photographs have appeared in *Texas Highways*, *Texas Sportsman*, *Texas Monthly* and *Texas Parks & Wildlife*. Two things have helped him improve his photography more than anything else, he says: acquiring auto-focus cameras and talking photography with Wyman Meinzer and David J. Sams. Hodge serves as wildlife editor of this magazine.



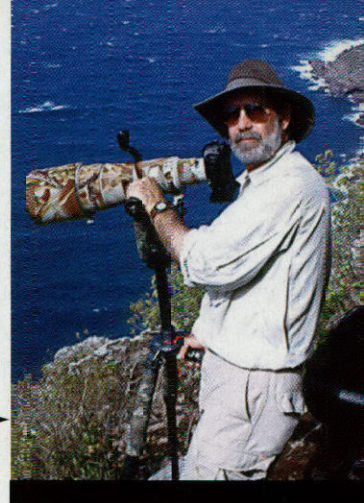
A self-taught photographer, **JOE MAC HUDSPETH** has turned his hobby into a part-time job, with his photos being published more than 700 times. In 1993, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute for Natural History awarded the "Grand Prize for Wildlife" to one of his photographs. He works with and supports wildlife organizations around the country and his first book, published by University Press, is scheduled for release in fall 2003.







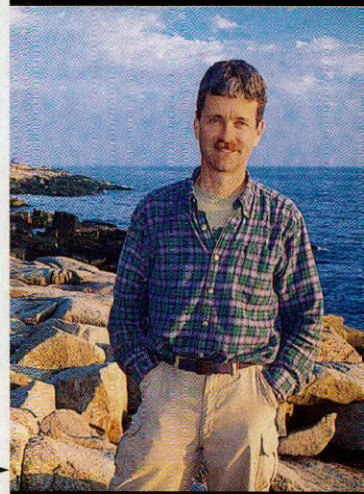
**GARY KRAMER** is a freelance photographer based in Willows, Calif. His photographs are regularly published in many nature magazines, plus books and calendars. He is the senior correspondent for *Bird Hunting Report* and a contributing photographer for *Sports Afield*. For 26 years, Kramer was a biologist/refuge manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1999, he retired from the service to pursue his photo career full-time.



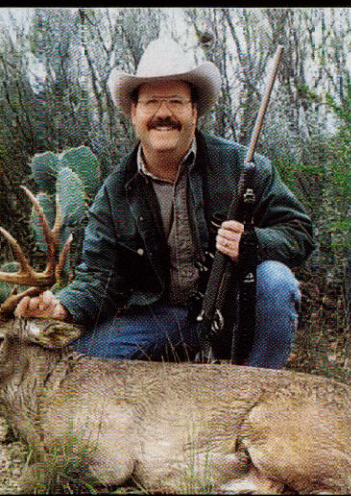
**GREG LASLEY** enjoyed a 25-year career with the Austin Police Department, retiring as a lieutenant in 1997. He is now a freelance wildlife photographer and also leads bird watching trips for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. Lasley has traveled over all of the United States, much of Mexico, Central and South America, as well as Antarctica photographing wildlife, primarily birds. His photos have been published in scores of magazines and books.



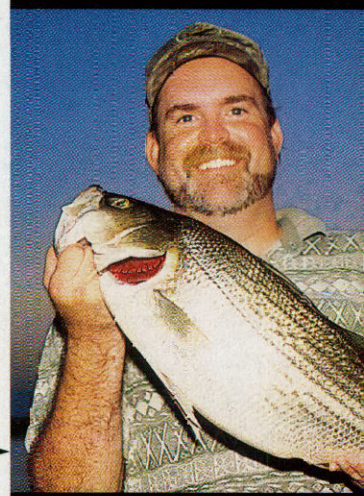
**GIBBS MILLIKEN** is a professor of art and Latin American studies at UT Austin. Research projects and creative efforts take him to remote locations all around the world. His articles, paintings, drawings and photographs appear in numerous exhibitions, periodicals and books published by Time-Life and UT Press. As an avid sportsman and product editor for *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, he field-tests, reviews and photographs the latest innovations in outdoor gear.



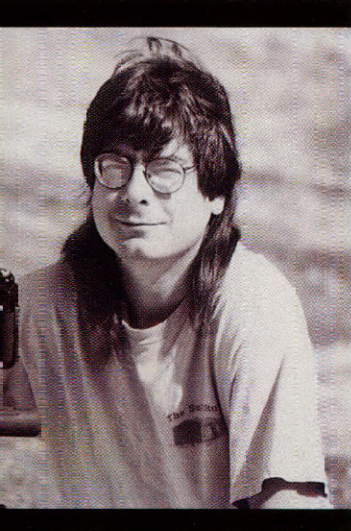
**LAURENCE PARENT** was born and raised in New Mexico and received a petroleum engineering degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981. He is now a full-time freelance photographer and writer specializing in landscape, travel and nature subjects. He specializes in 4x5 landscape and 35mm outdoor sports images and has stock from 48 states and provinces. His two latest projects are the large-format color books *Wildflowers Across Texas* and *Texas Mountains*.



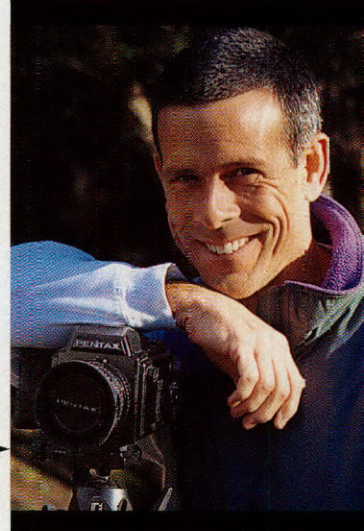
**DAVE RICHARDS** became interested in photographing wildlife more than 25 years ago, in the marshes and swamps of South Louisiana. Hundreds of his photos have been published, with many gracing the covers of numerous publications, including *Texas Parks & Wildlife*. Richards has traveled thousands of miles, photographing most of the big game species across the American West. His primary love, however, is still our big South Texas whitetails.



**MIKE SEARLES** was born and raised in Dallas, where he still resides with his wife and two children. He is a full-time freelance photographer specializing in North American game animals and birds, and his images are used regularly in more than 35 different magazines. He started as a hunter and now thinks of himself, "not as a photographer who photographs animals, but a hard-core hunter who chooses a camera for a weapon, most of the time."



**LANCE VARNELL** started working in the darkroom at the age of 13 when his father offered him his first part-time job. With a love of the outdoors and hiking, landscape photography quickly became his passion. While growing up in Indiana, Varnell honed his skills in the national forest and hills of the southern part of the state. He now lives in Houston and never tires of exploring and photographing the varied scenery of Texas.



Native Texan **RUSTY YATES** is a frequent contributor to *Texas Parks & Wildlife*. His work has appeared in numerous other magazines, as well as exhibits and award-winning advertisements. A lifelong passion for observing the natural world inspired his interest in photography. Says Yates, "If my work brings awareness to the incredible beauty of our world and the need to be wise stewards of our natural resources, then I have been successful."



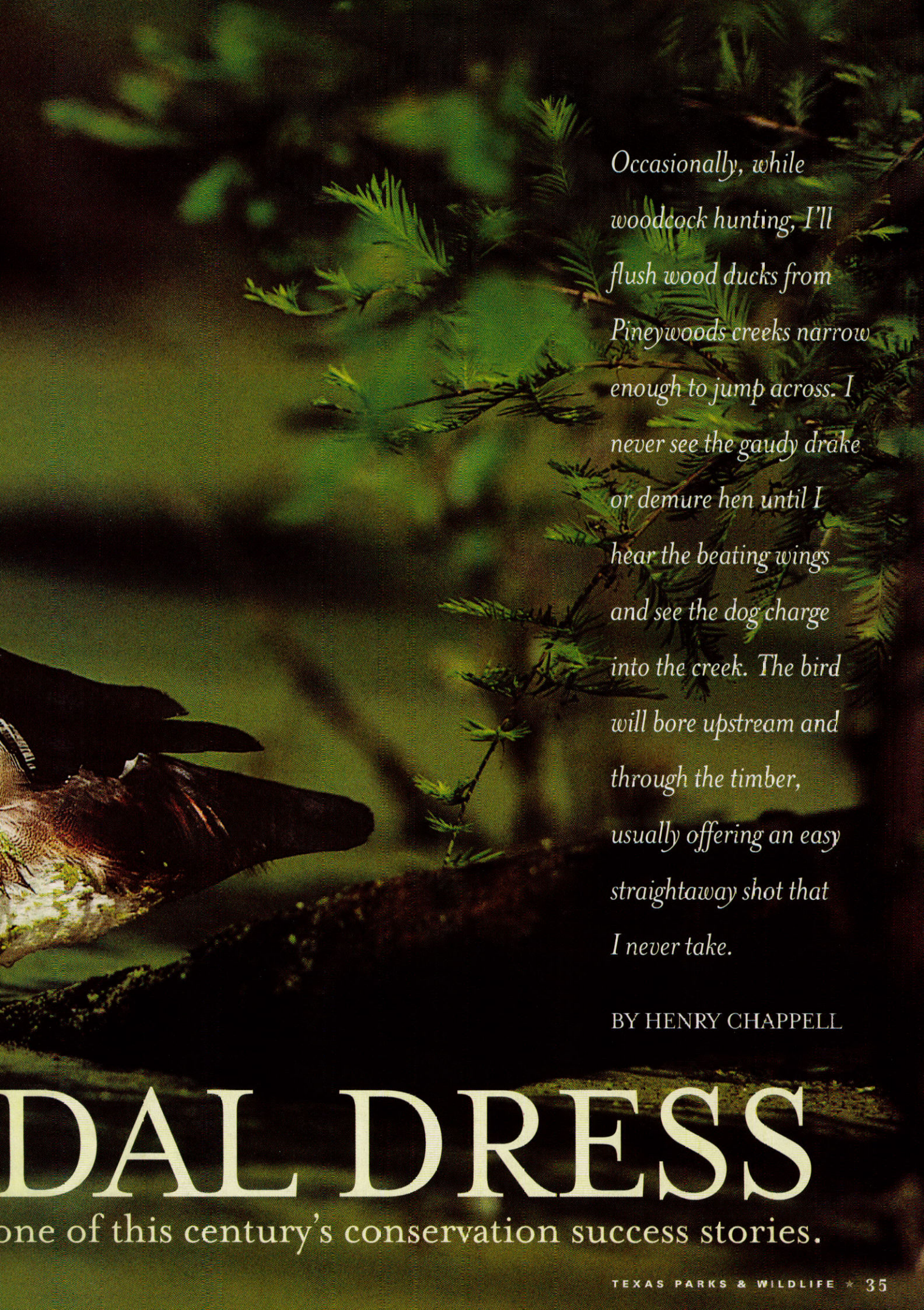


PHOTO © JOE MAC HUDSPETH, JR.

# BIRD *in* BIRD

The wood duck is a perennial Texas favorite and



A woodcock is shown in profile on the left side of the page, its long, pointed beak extending towards the center. The background is a dense, dark green pine forest with soft, out-of-focus lighting. The overall mood is quiet and naturalistic.

*Occasionally, while  
woodcock hunting, I'll  
flush wood ducks from  
Pineywoods creeks narrow  
enough to jump across. I  
never see the gaudy drake  
or demure hen until I  
hear the beating wings  
and see the dog charge  
into the creek. The bird  
will bore upstream and  
through the timber,  
usually offering an easy  
straightaway shot that  
I never take.*

BY HENRY CHAPPELL

# ADAL DRESS

one of this century's conservation success stories.





*I've listened to wood ducks' rising, quavering whistles while shivering in a johnboat in flooded timber. I've seen their flattened crests and square tails silhouetted against the dawn sky, always just out of shotgun range, or so it seems.*

I've admired taxidermists' art, resisting the temptation to stroke the green-and-white-striped crest, and I've enjoyed magazine covers featuring well-groomed retrievers gently holding a jewel-like wood duck drake.

Yet I've never held one. Most of the serious hunters I know have a special game bird they seldom if ever take because biology, philosophy and practicality fail to overcome sentimentalism. Mine is the wood duck.

I've considered hunting with steel shot exclusively so as to be ready and legal when drakes rise from the East Texas creeks I visit every winter. I may yet take up the practice. After all I never know when I'll flush a mallard instead of a wood duck.

### **Water Bird in Bridal Dress**

"They're called wood ducks because they're birds of forested regions," says TPWD waterfowl biologist Carl Frenness. The birds inhabit hardwood bottoms and wooded creeks and sloughs from the Atlantic Coast westward to Kansas and from Nova Scotia to northern Mexico. On the West Coast, wood duck range extends from British Columbia south to Mexico.

In Texas, wood ducks are fairly common in winter as far west as the Hill Country, and there's a disjoint population on the Rolling Plains, especially along the Canadian River. But the birds' stronghold is in East Texas — the Pineywoods and Post

Oak Savannah regions. While the state boasts a healthy resident breeding population, migrant birds arrive each winter via the Central Flyway from the upper Midwest and Ontario. A few spill over from the Mississippi Flyway.

Just as the wood duck's common name describes its habitat its scientific name, *Aix sponsa*, which translates to "water bird in bridal dress," speaks for its plumage. Most hunters and birders consider the wood duck North America's most striking waterfowl. The drake sports an iridescent green-and-white striped head and crest, plum-colored throat, white belly, red eyes and bright red-and-white bill. Hens are dark brown with conspicuous, white, tear-shaped eye rings and dark brown crests. Both exhibit blue speculums. Wood ducks in flight are easily identified by their large head and crest and long, square tail.

Wood ducks nest in natural tree cavities and, in some cases, those hollowed out and abandoned by woodpeckers. The birds also readily accept artificial nest boxes. Nesting pairs typically select cavities in deciduous woodlands close to rivers and wetlands and prefer sites located 30 feet or more above the ground, although the height can vary from near ground level to more than 60 feet. The hen lays 10 to 16 cream-colored eggs that hatch in four to five weeks.

Newly hatched ducklings use their sharp claws to climb up the inside of the nest cavity to the entrance, then jump and





By the beginning of the 20th century, wood ducks had nearly disappeared from their historic range.



PHOTOS © DAVIDSAMS.COM





In the 1930s biologists began using elevated nest boxes to augment naturally occurring cavities. The results have been spectacular.

flutter to the ground or water. Under the hen's guidance, they spend the next eight to nine weeks foraging as a brood.

The young ducks require shallow water for foraging on aquatic plants and protein-rich invertebrates such as dragonflies, beetles and spiders. Overhanging trees and shrubs protect the young from avian predators.

Adult birds are primarily herbivores, subsisting on acorns and other seeds and fruits — a diet that makes them excellent on the table. At times wood ducks leave the water to forage on the forest floor. “They’ll waddle around and feed like chickens,” says Frenness. “I’ve seen them walking in the woods some distance from water.”

Female wood ducks have a strong homing instinct, tending to return to areas where they nested or were reared. “Therein lies a management tool,” says Frenness. “If a female uses a certain cavity and survives the winter, you can expect she’ll be back.”

### Ducks on a Mission

Unlike mallards and other dabbling ducks, wood ducks don’t decoy well and rarely respond to calling. During hunting season, they typically fly singly, in pairs or in small flocks. Few hunters pursue them specifically. “Wood ducks in flight seem to be on a mission,” says Frenness. “If you’re lucky, their mission involves flying over you. Hunting them is a lot like hunt-

ing doves; just go to their foods and hope for the best. I hear people talking about calling, but I’ve never seen them respond.”

Nevertheless, hunters covet them. In recent years, wood ducks accounted for four to eight percent of the annual harvest, ranking fifth behind gadwalls, mallards, blue-wing teal, green-wing teal and wigeons.

TPWD biologist Kevin Mote of Brownwood takes a simple approach. “I’m basically an opportunist,” he says. “I typically hunt mallards, but I love seeing wood ducks. Since I always walk into my hunting areas — I’m not a boat hunter — I have to carry whatever I pitch out on the water. Naturally, I tote mallard decoys. They’ll occasionally bring in wood ducks, at least close enough for a shot.”

Mote recommends that wood duck hunters leave the big impoundments to the boat and blind hunters. “If I’m looking for wood ducks, I’ll head for rivers, creeks and flooded timber — places where acorns and other mast and fruit will fall into water.”

However, he stresses that hunters on big lakes often can find wood ducks simply by moving into the timbered backwaters. Scouting just before and during the hunting season pays off.

Jump-shooting — walking slowly along wooded creeks or sloughs — often produces some of the best hunting, especially after the early morning flights. Concentrate on slow pools and bends. Feeding ducks tend to congregate along the outside of a bend, where the faster current brings food. They’ll often rest in the slower current along the inside of a bend. Wood ducks are wary; jump-shooting often involves longer shots than pass-shooting or hunting over decoys. Be prepared for birds streaking through timber.

The standard waterfowl guns and loads apply to wood ducks. Use nontoxic shot that patterns best for your gun. Waterfowl hunters are urged to improve their shooting skills by using videos developed by shooting expert Tom Roster. Videos may be purchased by calling (541) 884-2974.

### Thinking Inside the Box

Although wood ducks now are common throughout most of their range, the striking plumage that delights modern hunters and birders probably contributed to their near-extinction. By the 1880s, unregulated hunting for meat and feathers and destruction of hardwood bottomland habitat had reduced the population to dangerously low levels. By the beginning of the 20th century, wood ducks had nearly disappeared from their historic range.

The road back began with enactment of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty in 1918, which effectively ended market hunting. The wood duck population began to increase in the 1920s. The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 expanded refuges and authorized acquisition of wetlands for waterfowl conservation. In 1934, to fund the acquisitions, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, better known as the “Duck Stamp Act,” which required every waterfowl hunter over the age of 16 to purchase a migratory bird stamp. By the 1940s, the wood duck population had rebounded sufficiently to support light hunting.

In the 1930s, biologists began using elevated nest boxes to augment naturally occurring cavities. The results have been



spectacular. “The nesting box probably was a major factor in saving the wood duck from extinction,” says Frentress. “You need the other habitat components, too — the hardwood bottomlands — but the nest box programs have been tremendously successful.”

In the early 1980s, Frentress and his East Texas colleagues refined techniques for building and locating boxes and consolidated the many loosely affiliated nest box programs. Between 1986 and 1994, TPWD gave away some 22,000 nest boxes to more than 2,000 cooperators. “We put a lot of cavities out there,” Frentress says, “and the wood ducks use them.” His surveys show that the birds’ use of the boxes increased to about 50 percent over the first few years of the program.

Today, artificial nest boxes are a common sight in wooded wetlands throughout the Southeast. The typical arrangement consists of a small wooden box elevated on a galvanized pole fitted with a sheet metal skirt or “predator guard” to discourage raccoons, snakes and other climbing nest raiders. A band

of sticky insect pest barrier is now considered to be more effective than metal shields. The boxes are located over shallow water or on the shore amid natural habitat. Landowners, hunting club members and others interested in installing nest boxes should seek guidance from TPWD. Improperly installed boxes can leave nests vulnerable to flooding and predation.

Habitat loss remains the biggest threat to waterfowl. To help ensure healthy populations of wood ducks and other migratory birds, wildlife professionals and conservationists developed the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture is part of this national waterfowl plan. It includes East Texas, where wood ducks are abundant. The Joint Venture is an ambitious program designed to develop population goals and determine habitat needs and objectives. Partners ranging from government agencies to private individuals work to make the Joint Venture a success.

The Joint Venture collaboration is producing restoration. For example, the East Texas Wetlands Project offers cost sharing to private landowners hoping to create or improve waterfowl habitat on their properties. It is a four-way partnership of TPWD, Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service that addresses the habitat needs unique to the area.

Although TPWD’s nest box program ended in 1994, Frentress hopes to resurrect the effort through one of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture projects. “I’ve been studying wood ducks for a long time,” he says. “They’ve been a lifelong fascination.”

Although wood ducks are only a small part of hunters’ harvests, they own a big portion of hunters’ hearts. ★

HENRY CHAPPELL’S newest book is a historical novel, *The Callings* (Texas Tech University Press).

### Additional Information

Hunting Regulations: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, (800) 792-1112, <[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)>

Texas Ducks Unlimited: <[www.texasducks.org](http://www.texasducks.org)>

Ducks Unlimited: <[www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)>

North American Waterfowl Management Plan: <[northamerican.fws.gov/NAWMP/nawmphp.htm](http://northamerican.fws.gov/NAWMP/nawmphp.htm)>

Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture: <[www.lmvjv.org](http://www.lmvjv.org)>

*Ecology and Management of the Wood Duck*, by Frank C. Belrose and Daniel J. Hohm, is available from Stackpole Books, (800) 732-3669, <[www.stackpolebooks.com](http://www.stackpolebooks.com)>.

Landowners and others interested in installing nest boxes should write to Carl Frentress, regional waterfowl biologist, East Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, P.O. Box 30, Athens, TX 75751.

Box building information and specifications are available from Ducks Unlimited at <[www.ducks.org/conservation/duck\\_box\\_plans.pdf](http://www.ducks.org/conservation/duck_box_plans.pdf)>.

Under the hen’s guidance, the newly hatched ducklings spend eight to nine weeks foraging as a brood.

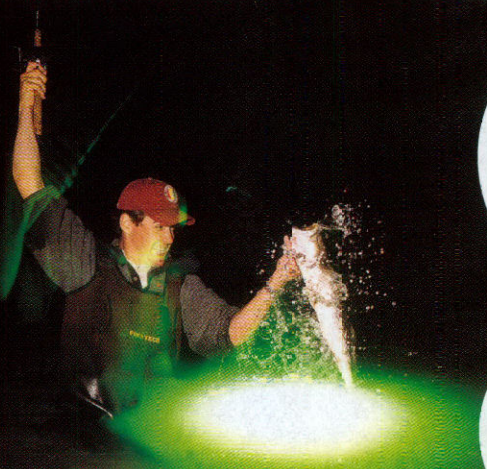


PHOTO © GRADY ALLEN



For savvy  
anglers, fishing  
for spotted  
seatrout  
is a hot  
proposition,  
even in the  
colder months.

# SPOTTED SEATROUT





Many coastal pluggers think that low mercury readings do not bode well for spotted seatrout fishing. But fish, like humans, seek warm places in chilly weather. While humans may seek the fireside to keep warm, the violet-backed “specks” gather in the nearest channel or deep-water structure to escape the cold. That makes finding them simple. Find a hole or sudden elevation change, and you most likely will find fish — lots of them.

*By Bink Grimes*





## Spas for Specks

In winter, deeper water is much warmer on the bottom, especially when the floor is mud. The mud holds the heat it absorbed during the sunny part of the day. Bay bottoms or river channel floors may be from 10 to 50 feet deep and do not exchange tides and currents as readily as the surface. Therefore, the basement provides a constant temperature. Trout like constants, so they hang out there until the surface readings rise.

Like humans, fish tend to move more slowly in colder conditions. Fishing tactics should be based on slowing the presentation of the bait. Cooler water makes for slower metabolic rates in fish, so they do not burn as many calories. Trouble is, that means they don't have to feed as often. Winter specks are not going to chase a bait that comes darting by unless they are starving. Try going to a heavier jighead to get the soft plastic or natural bait to the bottom quickly. Be aware that a light, sensitive rod is essential. Trout sometimes "gum" the bait in the winter and all you feel is a tightness in the line or a mild thump as the fish's jaw closes on the food. This calls for concentration. If you feel something that hinders your retrieve, set the hook.

## Nighttime Is the Bright Time

Night fishing under lights adds another dimension to winter angling for speckled trout. Stiff fronts pushing frigid air from the north also push water out of shallow bay flats and backwater marshes. This in turn pushes baitfish out of skinny water and into the deeper rivers where trout can dine on a buffet of finfish and crustaceans. Hence, the best time to fish at night in the winter is a day after a front has blown through. When the sun goes down and the lights come on, the fish come out.

Fishing at night for speckled trout is sim-

ple. Find a deep river or bayou flowing into an adjacent bay system. These aquatic highways provide a thoroughfare for tide-running trout. Power up 800 to 1,000 watts of illumination with a generator and wait for the shrimp and baitfish to show up under the lights. The predatory game fish you are targeting will follow.

Any generator will do; however, ones rated for 2,500 watts or more run longer without your having to stop fishing to refuel. Popular lights are 200-watt spotlights rigged in a row of four, or one 1,000-watt beam. Cost for bulbs averages \$25 apiece, and the box that houses the lights can be built for another \$100. Use a strong steel pole to stand the lights on so that it will not sway or buckle in stiff winds.

Fishing at night can be productive year-round, provided the rivers and bayous you choose to fish do not have copious inflows of fresh water. Rainfall far to the north flows downstream to the coast and affects fishing by dirtying and freshening up the water. Trout need salt in their diet and will seek a hypersaline environment if fresh water floods an area.

Artificial aficionados choose from a variety of swimming and jerk baits. Glow plastics like Bass Assassins, Norton Sand Eels, Trout Killers, Gamblers and Hogies work well on a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ounce jighead. Slow-sinking mullet imitations like chartreuse Corkies, Catch 2000s and MirrOlures 52M often take bigger fish. Current and water clarity determine success. Trout rely on sight and sound when feeding. The water needs to be clear enough for the fish to see your artificial offering.

Live-baiters' best option is live shrimp

under a popping cork. Watch the cork. When it gets dunked, set the hook. If the fish will not take a shrimp two feet below the bobber, try "free-shrimping." This is done by fishing the shrimp on the bottom with as little weight added as possible — just enough to get the bait down. The shrimp swims freely until something decides to inhale it. A speckled trout has a hard time turning down a live shrimp.

Spring and summertime fishing see more "school" trout, those that barely eclipse the legal 15-inch mark. During this time, fishing can be fast and furious; yet often you must release five undersized trout for every "keeper" you hook. Some nights are different, but for the most part count on smaller fish in the warmer months. This is due to the abundance of small shad and shrimp that inhabit the rivers during warm-water months.

## Trolling for Trout

Rivers adjacent to bays are strong speckled trout players during the daytime hours. Yet they are overlooked often because anglers are not patient enough to keep drifting and bouncing their shad or shrimp imitations along the bottom.

Thirty years of fishing the Matagorda bays and tributaries has convinced guide Melvin Talasek of Matagorda that trolling the river during daylight hours has the potential to put "wall-hangers" above an angler's mantel. He has a few to prove it.

How do you catch them? First, you must find the fish with electronics; then use a trolling motor against the current. If you do not have an electric trolling motor, drift with the current and let the bait skim across

**The best time to fish at night in the winter is a day after a front has blown through. When the sun goes down and the lights come on, the fish come out.**

the river floor until you feel the line twitch or tighten. "These fish are not aggressive," Talasek says. "The bite is soft and requires a sensitive rod and concentration."

A  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ounce jighead will keep the bait on the bottom. Fire tiger, salt/pepper, pumpkinseed/chartreuse, glow/chartreuse and chartreuse work great, according to Talasek. "Anything that flutters or wiggles its tail will usually work."

River fishing can be like taking a page out of the bass angler's playbook. As the sun comes out and heats up the water, the fish will move close to the bank and hang on the drop-offs. Most riverbanks have edges that drop from three to eight feet, and trout will work up and down these elevation changes in search of baitfish. Troll or drift in the deep and launch topwa-





## Spots and Guides for Winter Specks

Spotted seatrout can be found all along the Texas Coast, as can fishing guides eager to help you catch them. For phone numbers and Internet addresses of coastal convention and visitors bureaus listing fishing guides, go to [www.tacvb.com/gulfcoast.html](http://www.tacvb.com/gulfcoast.html).

Some of the more popular winter havens for speckled trout are Offatt's Bayou in West Galveston Bay, the Houston Lighting and Power spillway in Trinity Bay, the floodgates in Moses Lake near Texas City, Caney Creek in Sargent, the Colorado River and diversion channel in Matagorda, the Army Hole in Port O'Connor, California Hole in Redfish Bay near Rockport, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and Land Cut areas of the Upper Laguna Madre and the harbor in Port Mansfield.

ters, buzzbaits or crankbaits toward the shallows or any structure such as broken limbs, stumps or grass — and prepare for an attack.

"The river allows us to fish even when the wind is howling on the bays," says Sabine Lake pro Captain Chuck Uzzle. "The fish will gang up in the holes. You can anchor and stay in the same place and remain busy."

Uzzle's passion is catching trout on artificials. However, during the cold-weather months, a live shad Carolina-rigged in nine to 11 feet of water is the ticket. Be aware that a cast net and a working livewell are needed to catch bait and keep it frisky.

## Playing the Shell Game

So long as teeth-chattering winds are not white-capping the open bay, drifting deep oyster-shell reefs is profitable. Winter tides already are the lowest of the year. Combine that with 15- to 25-mile-per-hour north winds, and tide readings drop as low as three to four feet below normal. Obviously, with water temperatures in the 40s and lower-than-low tides, wading shorelines for trout is out of the question. Some shorelines that are waist- to belly-deep during normal tides and southerly winds are reduced to mud flats or ankle-deep water in the winter. Where do the fish go? They head to the deepest part of the bay and find structure. The middle is normally the deepest, and the structure is most often shell. Deep shell in most bays from Sabine Lake to Corpus Christi occurs in water six to 10 feet deep.

"In the winter, most of the shrimp have left the bay, and the only baitfish present are in the middle of the bay. Most shorelines do not have water on them with the low winter tides, so mullet must retreat to the deep water and try to hide around whatever structure they can find. In most instances, it is shell," Talasek says. Find the shell, and you'll find trout.

Presentation of the bait should be slow, slow and slower. You should feel the tick of the leadhead as it hops and hits each piece of shell. Specks will not viciously attack the offering like they do in the warm-water months. The opening or closing of their mouths is all you might feel. Be prepared to set the hook on the slightest twitch, twinge or tightening of your line. You'll lose some tackle to hangups, and running trout will sometimes cut your line on shell, but you have to fish where the fish are.

Wintertime fishers seek warmth, and so do the fish. When you locate a place that trout find cozy, the action will heat up. So will your body temperature. I have never known anyone to complain about the cold while they are catching specks. ★

PHOTO © GRADY ALLEN







GALVESTON ISLAND  
STATE PARK

**FAMILY  
ADVENTURE**

EVEN IN SUMMERTIME HEAT, PANFISHING THE SURF AND  
SCOUTING FOR SHOREBIRDS IS DOWNRIGHT COOL.

BY LARRY BOZKA



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HAVE MANY PRIORITIES,  
MOST OF THEM BEYOND THE GRASP OF CLUELESS PARENTS.

# “BEING COOL” RANKS NO. 1.

From music to hairstyles to the way one's pants fit, coolness has evolved. Fast cars and girlfriends, however, remain critically important.

I had neither in the summer of 1971.

My older brother Bill was another story. He could grow sideburns overnight. He had a girlfriend, and his lime green '62 Impala ran a pretty decent quarter-mile.

I was skinny as a cattail and still too young to drive. I wore glasses that, held at just the right angle to the sun, were thick enough to start a campfire.

Bill and I nonetheless shared a mutual passion for outdoor sports. We still do. Our father gave us that gift.

Things were different then. A child could take antlers to class the Monday after opening weekend of deer season and not be ostracized. A sawed-off rack with six points or more evoked considerable envy. Big-fish photos occasionally even made the yearbook.

At Pearland High, strange as it seems now, successful outdoorsmen were cool. Not stone-cold cool like star quarterbacks and wide receivers, but cool all the same. I picked up on this very early in my education. The Cold War was ablaze. Fifties-era black-and-white films explaining how to “duck and cover” under classroom desks were still being shown to fearful first-graders.

Catch was, these films never addressed how we were to live in the event the desk trick worked and we miraculously survived the mushroom cloud. I therefore assured my classmates that avid and knowledgeable outdoorsmen like me would heroically save us all.

First, we'd go to the beach and catch loads of fish (never mind the radiation; this was grade school, OK?). The fillets would be salted, smoked and dried for future consumption. Then we'd head for the woods, where we would forevermore “live off the land.”

I had infinite faith in the bountiful nature of the Galveston Island surf. It was based on experience.

Since Bill and I tended to invite too many friends to fit in our leaky, 16-foot Lone Star aluminum, Dad often opted to take us surf fishing. To others, the beach was a place to swim, sunbathe and build sand castles. To us it was, and remains, a place to fish.

When West Galveston Beach was announced as the site of our freshman class Memorial Day field trip, I was jubilant. The other students boarded Bus Three in the pre-dawn haze, toting multi-colored beach balls, huge cotton towels and various plastic implements known only to veteran sand castle architects.

One guy carted a 6-foot surfboard to the back of the bus. His name escapes me, but I recall with the razor clarity of self-con-

sious adolescent memory how he razzed me about my sizable collection of fishing gear — an old Ambassador 5000, orange-topped popping corks, pre-rigged hooks and leaders, a foam ice chest, a bait bucket on a dime store stringer and a pound of frozen shrimp.

I almost left the hardware at home. At the last minute I tossed in a couple of half-ounce Johnson Sprite

spoons, a red-and-white Mirrolure 52M and a pink Queen Bingo plug. The lures, I figured, would at least look cool.

The surfer disagreed.

We made it onto the beach without getting stuck. Everyone bailed out and commenced to be cool. I, meanwhile, shuffled out to the first sand bar, extracted a thawed-out shrimp from my shirt pocket and lobbed it just beyond the first sand bar.

The strike was immediate.

The red fiberglass rod, an inexpensive Garcia 7-footer, doubled over. A pound-and-a-half whiting went onto the stringer. In less than an hour it had been joined by at least a dozen other silver-sided “shoemakers” of roughly the same size.

Shocked that there were actually fish out there, onlookers began to gather. But it was the shark that really got their attention.

The agitated blacktip was all of 4 feet long. No matter. For all the commotion it caused it might as well have been a 14-foot hammerhead. Line melted from the little baitcasting reel. Ten minutes of steady pressure and a cruising, gray fin finally appeared.

“Hey, y'all!” someone hollered. “He's got a shark! A huge shark!”

“A what?” yelled a girl far down the beach.

“A shark!”

“Man, that's cool!”

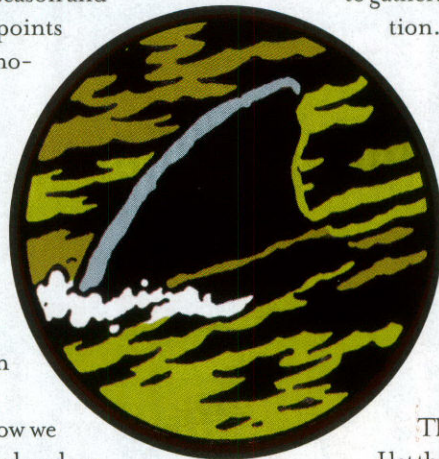
The girl disagreed.

I let the tired-out blacktip wallow around long enough for the others to get a good look, pulled my fillet knife from its plastic sheath and cut the leader. The fish eased off into gentle swells that had suddenly become devoid of careless frolickers. I then initiated what I now recognize as my first bona fide “instructional fishing clinic.”

Shortly after the Great Shark Landing, and through sheer luck, I caught a 19-inch speckled trout. Upon announcing its Latin name — *Cynoscion nebulosus* — I gained the immediate respect of my biology teacher. Even so, halfway through my impromptu dissertation, a wide-eyed lady chaperone insisted that I quit fishing for fear that I might summon from the sea a half-ton tiger shark, great white or other equally ferocious man-eating beast.

I reluctantly gave my remaining shrimp to the gulls and put my gear back on the bus. A wet, sand-coated surfboard was stashed beneath the rear left seat. I got out, found a misplaced toy shovel and ambled down the beach to assist some friends in the much less reckless pursuit of sand castle construction.

Still, my hopes had been wildly exceeded. I'd caught a hefty stringer of fish. I'd seriously freaked out a teacher's aide and, better yet, had been sternly reprimanded for brazenly endan-





gering the lives of the entire freshman class with a death-defying feat straight out of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom."

Now *that* was cool.

I still love to teach people how to fish, especially in the surf, where bites are all but assured and no boat is required. And I still return to that same spot, now the site of one of the Texas Coast's most popular state parks. Around four years after our field trip, in 1975, the same stretch of sand officially opened as Galveston Island State Park.

I've gone back with friends countless times since.

Few people realize what a fascinating and diverse chain of life exists and thrives in the shallow waters of the Texas beachfront. In late summer and fall we patrol the breakers in search of big "bull" redfish (a misnomer; they are actually egg-laden females). Caught on wide-gapped circle hooks and released after gut-busting brawls, 30-pound-class red drum are unforgettable trophies.

Ten-foot rods, squidding reels, wire-pronged weights and long, stout shock leaders are the stuff of serious surf fishing. Surfcasting is a tradition, but a physically demanding one. Just as often, we head to Galveston Island State Park and adjacent waters with simple-to-use spincasting rigs in the hands of eager-to-learn youngsters.

My lifelong friend Tom LaCognata of Bacliff is a single father who has his hands full raising a young son and daughter. Last summer we baptized Jennifer, 12, and Jason, 15, in the park's shallow suds.

We steadfastly adhered to the primary rules of teaching children about fishing.

No. 1: Keep it interesting.

No. 2: Keep it comfortable.

Thanks to the dazzling smorgasbord of species, Jennifer and Jason never got bored. Comfortwise, after a breezy island night of

## A Park for Everyone

Galveston Island State Park spans a little more than 2,000 acres.

Distinctive concrete arches shade sturdy picnic tables and nearby barbecue grills. Laughing gulls roost on the rooftops. Screened shelters, campsites with water and electricity, RV hookups, restrooms with showers, a pavilion and more make this urban venue as comfortable as possible for anglers and nature lovers who thrive on sand and surf.

Come fall, we pitch tents with the best of them. But if that's not for you, the Galveston Seawall is home to numerous hotels, some spartan, some spectacular. Either way, they are all air-conditioned. They're also within walking distance of the surf and easy driving distance of the park. An air-conditioned travel trailer or RV is a must for all but the hardest of summertime beach campers.

Some four miles of multi-use trails are available for hiking and mountain bike riding, along with a 2.5-mile nature/interpretive trail

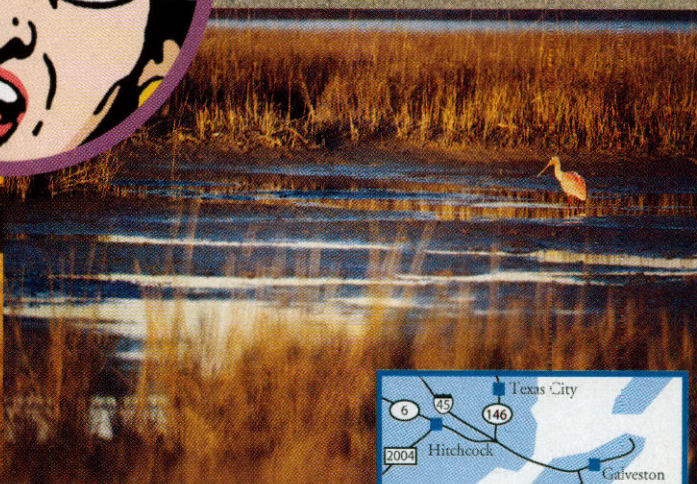
that's likely to afford glimpses of creatures as diverse as raccoons, coyotes and marsh rabbits, as well as a rainbow of shorebirds,

destroyed Galveston Island State Park's protective dune barrier in September 1998. Since then, an innovative, volunteer-driven project utilizing disposed-of Christmas trees has restored the small but critically important wind-built mounds to their former prominence.

Today, volunteer projects ranging from the expansion of trails to guided tours attract the assistance of individuals who recognize the inestimable value of family-friendly facilities like Galveston Island State Park.

A recent \$2.6 million undertaking — the largest wetland restoration project ever attempted in a Texas state park — resulted in the awarding of a Coastal America Partnership Award to the park's volunteer personnel in 2002. Begun in May 1999 and completed in April 2000, the innovative operation birthed the first new growth of Galveston Bay seagrass since 1972. More than 100 acres of bay bottom continue to flourish and expand, benefiting everything from nesting resident birds to migratory waterfowl; to spawning shrimp and finfish.

TO GET THERE: From Houston, take I-45 south into Galveston and exit right onto 61st Street. Stay on 61st Street to the Galveston Seawall; then turn right on Seawall (FM 3005). The park entrance is located approximately 10 miles to the west on the left-hand (beachfront) side.



playing in the pool at the historic Hotel Galvez, LaCognata's youngsters were literally up and running long before dawn.

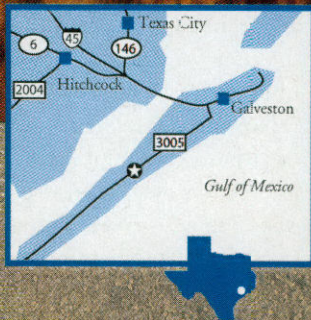
"You can tell it isn't a school day," he said with a grin.

The brother-and-sister fishing team scurried about the room, Jennifer admonishing Jason not to forget the sunscreen, while she loaded the cooler with bottled water.

Strikes were steady on fresh-dead shrimp. As always, the species of the attacker remained a constant source of wonderment. What is so special about saltwater fishing with natural baits, and particularly family-oriented angling of this nature, is that fish

including herons, sandpipers, plovers, roseate spoonbills and the ever-present gulls and terns. Bird blinds and an observation tower are available, and the Mary Moody Northern Amphitheater hosts special events.

Sand dunes, blanketed with resilient and sometimes colorful vegetation, hold the line against erosion. Dunes are essential to the survival of coastal beachfronts. Tropical Storm Frances virtually



For complete information on this and other state parks, visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) and click on the Parks button at the top of the page. To make reservations by phone, call (512) 389-8900.





remain mysteries until landed.

The possibilities are impressive, even to a preoccupied youngster with a typically short attention span. The “big three” glory species — speckled trout, redfish and flounder — occasionally intervene. More often, it’s prolific and tasty panfish like sand trout, Gulf trout, croaker, sheepshead and small black “puppy” drum. Whiting, properly known as “Gulf kingfish,” are especially appealing in that they’re available year-round. They’re also excellent when fried fresh.

Rocket-fast Spanish mackerel are abundant from Memorial Day through Labor Day when winds are light from the southeast. As a special treat, delectable and hard-fighting pompano sometimes ride the same clear-water tides favored by mackerel and trout.

Poor table qualities aside, ladyfish are tremendous sport fish, too. The airborne antics of even a 2-pound-class “toy tarpon” are classic.

Though too red-meated for most cooks, jack crevalle are also phenomenal fighters. Jacks don’t jump; they just go. And go, and go and go. The typical 10-pound jackfish can — and often does — strip a fully spooled reel clean of line while overheating the drag with a single, intimidating run.

In the saltwater fishing family, hardhead catfish are the most despised relatives. Their meat is oatmeal-soft. Far worse, their spike-like barbed fins are toxic enough to cause agonizing pain and nausea. Don’t let youngsters mess with hardhead catfish; the removal of *Arius felis* is best done by an adult with pliers or hook disgorgers.

Jennifer and Jason still talk about that trip. They remember the small but strong sand sharks in particular — how smooth the fish’s leathery skin was when stroked with the grain, how coarse it was when rubbed forward. Jennifer adored the spadefish; they looked, she said, “like something from an aquarium.”

Access is the key word for family fishing fun, and Galveston Island State Park offers it in abundance. But although millions of Texans live within a two-hour drive of this extraordinary place, where priceless memories can be forged without exorbitant price tags, only a relative few have taken the time to discover it.

Some will love the fishing. Some will stroll the trails and watch skimmers zoom low above flooded marsh grasses while roseate

spoonbills lazily wade and sift out meals with gentle, back-and-forth sweeps of their feathery heads. Some will wait for the evening serenades of coyotes roaming the dunes. Others will spend the night, rise early and watch the morning sun climb the Gulf horizon far, far offshore.

High school seniors or senior citizens, they’ll all go home and tell their friends about one very cool place. ★



## Tackle, Accessories and Rigging for Successful Beachfront Panfishing

Beachfront fishing tackle needn’t be expensive. Spinning gear is best for novices, as it is easy to cast and does not backlash like baitcasting gear. Spinning reels, either open-faced “coffee cans” or push-button “spincasters,” are also very easy to “break down” and clean after use. (Upon returning home, wash reels thoroughly with fresh water and wipe the housings clean inside and out with a soft cloth. Then, before reassembly,

spray liberally with CorrosionX or another quality rust-preventive lubricant. Add ReelX or Quantum Hot Sauce reel grease and reel oil to appropriate areas — bearings, handles and anti-reverse systems.)

Hammered-in five-foot lengths of PVC pipe make invaluable holders for keeping rods and reels organized and clear of tackle-eating sand and salt (be forewarned; take along a heavy plastic mallet or you’ll be hunting hard for a stout stick to use as a “pipe driver.”)

Lower the rod handles in the pipes and occasionally rinse the reels and rod guides with fresh water. Always secure stand-by hooks in the wire retainers located at the bases of most fishing rod blanks. Safely stashed hooks and leaders cannot snap freely in the beachfront breeze like bullwhips with barbs.

At any time of year, SPF-30 sunscreen is smart insurance. Ditto for effective insect repellent and quality polarized sunglasses for “reading the water” while minimizing eye-damaging glare.

Bigging-wise, 12-pound-test monofilament main line is standard, as is 15- to 20-pound-test leader material. Use a “fish-finder” rig: Thread an egg sinker weighing ¼-ounce or less on the main line above a small black barrel swivel. Tie a foot or so of leader to the swivel bottom; then attach a narrow-gapped, long-shank hook. The narrow gap of the hook makes small-mouthed panfish much easier to hook. The long shank makes them much easier to unhook and, subsequently, to release unharmed. Though most anglers bottom-fish, a fish-finder rig can be easily fitted with a popping cork if a float is desired.

Hook disgorgers always help. For sharp-toothed denizens like sharks, bluefish, mackerel and ribbonfish, a hook cut at the leader knot on the eye of the shank will rust away quickly (a solid case for non-stainless hooks), protecting both the fish and the fisher from possible injury.

A youngster can learn a lot when fishing at a place like Galveston Island State Park, not the least of which is the concept and purpose of conservation. The surf usually yields enough fish to take home and eat, and even more to catch and release.

The bottom line is: Of all the equipment needed for taking the family fishing, a camera loaded with a full roll of film is the most important. In this promising time of conservation awareness and tightened regulations, CPR — Catch, Photograph and Release — cannot be taught too early.

Plus, you’ll get some cool pictures to take back to school.



# [THE SECOND SEASON]

Hunting does and other antlerless deer helps keep both the herd and the habitat healthy.

ARTICLE BY BOB ZAIGLIN / PHOTOS BY GRADY ALLEN



PARTICULARLY IN THE HILL COUNTRY — the place one biologist calls “the deer factory of the world” — deer overpopulation is a continuing problem. That’s why antlerless hunting was first begun there in the 1960s. “The only real way to get deer numbers under control is through the female,” explains Bill Armstrong, a TPWD biologist on the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. “If you have 100 bucks and 100 does and have a 100 percent fawn crop, you will have 100 fawns born. If you have 50 bucks and 100 does, you will have 100 fawns born. If you have 10 bucks and 100 does, you will still have 100 fawns born. The female is the reproductive unit, so you must control doe numbers.”





may not move much during daylight hours. Fall rains can also create ideal range conditions, reducing deer activity because deer do not have to move much to find food.

Because of poor hunting efficiency early in the season and the probable lower survival rate of orphaned fawns as shown by the 1988 study, the antlerless and spike season was set to follow the end of the regular hunting season. Not all counties have an antlerless and spike season; consult the current *Outdoor Annual* for details.

In addition to antlerless deer, which generally means does, spike bucks (which have no forked antlers due to poor nutrition and genetics) are also legal to take during the late season. Many people once objected to shooting spikes, arguing that they often developed better antlers as they grew older. However, studies on the Kerr WMA show that bucks that are spikes during their first year will always have antlers inferior to bucks sporting forked antlers their first year. Hunters wishing to put meat in the freezer can target spikes in the late season, using unfilled buck tags from the earlier season.

### “Deer Eat”

“Old-time game wardens can tell you stories about almost having to back out of rooms with guns drawn when the hunting of does was first proposed in the Hill Country,” says Armstrong. Ranchers accustomed to protecting their domestic broodstock simply couldn’t accept the notion that removing female deer from the population was a good idea. And hunters, as a rule, prefer to bring home a buck instead of a doe.

Research on the Kerr and other WMAs, as well as on private property, has since proven the wisdom of targeting antlerless deer. It has taken time, but the practice has been accepted by hunters and landowners interested in managing for quality deer and protecting the habitat.

As wildlife manager for several large ranches in South and Central Texas, I spend a considerable portion of my time surveying deer herds and establishing

### The Female Factor

It’s obvious that the earlier in the season a deer is removed, the more forage will be left for the remaining deer. Often, though, hunters focused on bucks don’t want to hunt does early in the season for fear of spooking bucks into hiding.

If hunters do take does early in the season, what effect will it have on the fawns of does taken? In a 1986 study on captive deer at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, “Effect of Early Weaning on 180-day Body Measurements on White-tailed

Development of Orphaned White-tailed Deer in Southern Texas,” we also found that on well-managed landholdings providing quality deer habitat, there are minimal, if any, negative effects on physical development of orphaned fawns. However, this study did find that orphaned fawns occupied smaller home ranges than unorphaned fawns. This put orphaned fawns at a disadvantage in their search for food, water and cover from predators. While none of the unorphaned fawns in the study died, 21 percent of the

**Each deer consumes more than half a ton of forage a year. Thus, for every 10 deer removed from your ranch or lease, you save in excess of five tons of native vegetation for remaining deer.**

Deer,” Donnie Harmel and J.D. Williams found that body weight and other physical measurements at 180 days of age did not differ between groups of fawns artificially weaned at 60 and 90 days of age and those left with their dams.

In a 1988 study of wild deer I co-authored with Steve Demarais, “Physical

orphaned fawns did not survive. This finding supported delaying hunting does until late in the season in order to improve fawn survival.

Another factor favoring a late doe season is that fall weather patterns can make it difficult to take does early in the season. Fall temperatures can be hot, and deer

harvest quotas. By obtaining accurate population data and removing the correct number of antlerless deer from the herd, I come closer to achieving one of my management objectives — the production of a healthy deer herd in balance with the natural environment.

“Deer eat.” Armstrong starts off every



## Tools for Managing Deer Herds

Deer herd managers have many more tools at their disposal today than existed just a few years ago. The number of private landowners, lessees and hunting clubs cognizant of the benefits derived from antlerless and spike deer harvest is at an all-time high. So influential has this constituency become that Texas Parks and Wildlife staff and commissioners continually address issues like establishing liberal antlerless deer harvests and extended seasons.

Over the last few years, Managed Land Deer permits (MLDs), the Landowner Assisted Management Permit System (LAMPS), and Antlerless Deer Control Permits (ADCPs) have been established in order to assist land managers in managing deer herds. The MLD permit allows landowners with a TPWD-approved management plan to extend the gun hunting of deer during October and late January and allows larger limits with the use of bonus tags. LAMPS allows landowners in East Texas to harvest antlerless deer in buck-only counties. The ADCPs give land managers the ability to designate individuals to remove surplus antlerless deer, including spikes, from the Saturday nearest Sept. 30 through the last day of any open season in a given county.

New antler regulations introduced in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, Lee and Washington counties beginning with the 2002-2003 season may encourage more hunters to target does in those counties by making it illegal to take bucks with fewer than six points on at least one side or an inside spread less than 13 inches. Designed to protect young bucks from overharvest, the regulations will remain in place for three years to allow biologists to evaluate their effectiveness. For more information, see "That Eight-Pointer May Not Be Legal" on page 11 of the August 2002 issue, or go to <[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/oak\\_prairie/experimental\\_antler\\_regs/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/oak_prairie/experimental_antler_regs/)>.

Finally, a special antlerless and spike season for muzzleloaders only in some deer-rich counties allows hunters one more opportunity to spend time in the outdoors and benefit the environment by taking surplus animals.

presentation at Kerr WMA field days for landowners with that simple statement. Its apparent simplicity belies its complexity. Deer herds should be maintained below the carrying capacity of the land in order to ensure all deer an adequate amount of nutritious native forage. Each deer consumes more than half a ton of forage a year. Thus, for every 10 deer removed from your ranch or lease, you save in excess of five tons of native vegetation for remaining deer.

This increased food supply can play a role in the survival of older-age bucks following the rut. Obviously, a reduction in doe numbers increases competition between bucks for breeding privileges, forcing them to enter the post-rut in poor physical condition. But while fewer does means less mating opportunity, there's a benefit for bucks: more food. Taking an adequate number of does off the land should balance any downside by allowing the bucks ample natural forage.

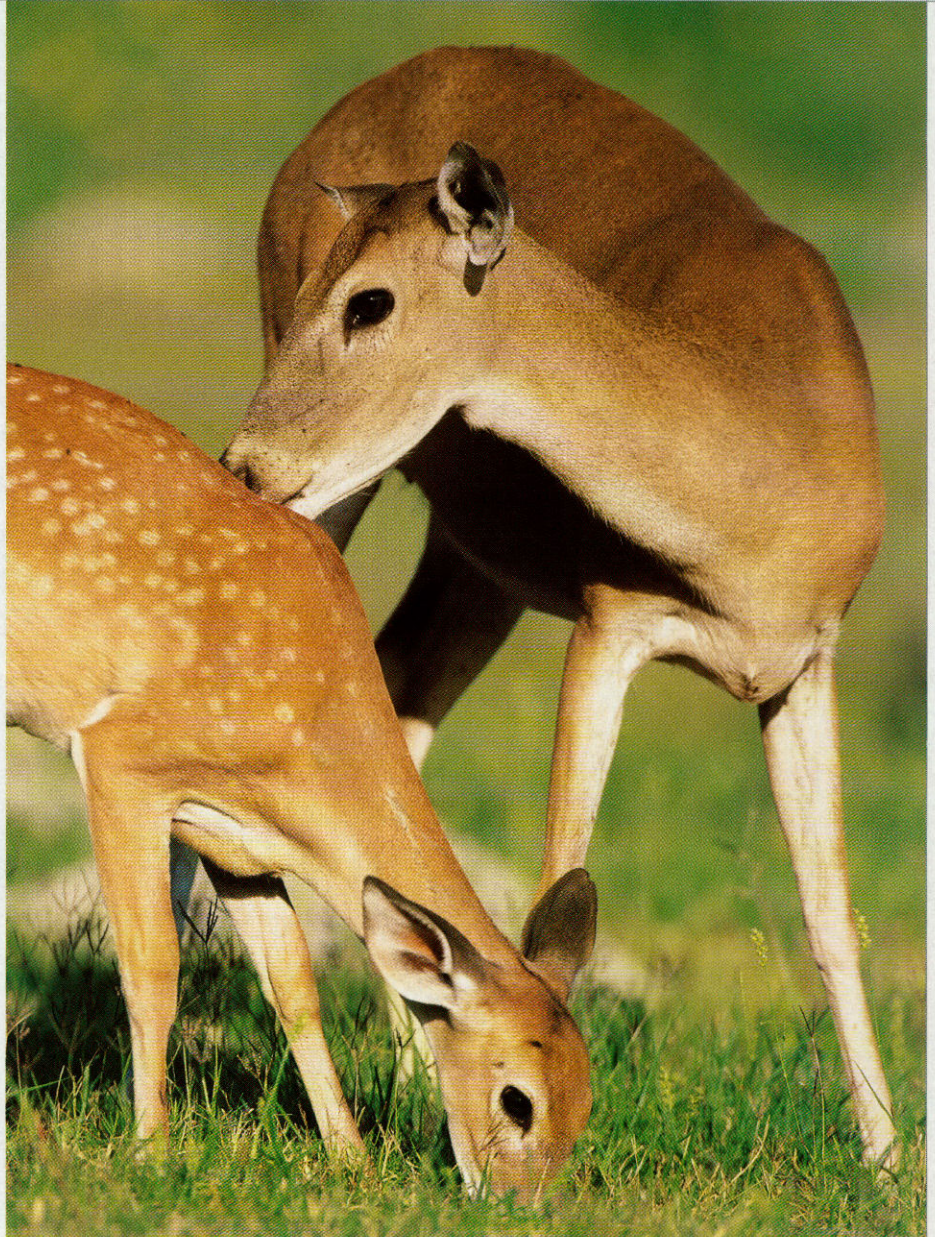
### Matching Wits With Does

Because deer herds often have more does than bucks, hunting antlerless deer can be easy the first season or two. This is particularly true when you are hunting does on a lightly hunted parcel of land. However, the more often and the harder does are hunted, the more wary they become. Each succeeding season, does become smarter and harder to find. They are no longer unafraid, and they become rather wild and reclusive. This is one of the reasons few mature does are observed on well-managed ranches. They are fast

learners and quickly begin to employ their inherent survival instincts. If you think a buck is smart, you simply haven't tried to match wits with a 6-year-old doe that has survived five intensive doe hunting seasons. In addition to surviving herself, a doe must raise a fawn, sometimes two. The survival skills she develops while protecting her own life and that of her fawns makes a mature doe harder to hunt than any buck.

Antlerless and spike hunting can be a family affair. It is particularly enjoyable for youngsters, many of whom take a doe or spike as their first deer, partly because does are abundant and inexpensive to hunt. Ideally, they will continue this tradition as adults, thereby helping to assure the continued success of white-tailed deer in Texas. ★

*BOB ZAIGLIN is a certified wildlife biologist and wildlife manager for Harrison Interests, Ltd. A Uvalde resident, he received the Texas Game Warden Association's Conservationist of the Year award in 1985.*





*Legend*, LORE, & LEGACY





*Next to Davy Crockett himself, Ben Lilly may have been the most legendary outdoorsman Texas has known.* / BY HERMAN W. BRUNE

**T**HE BEN LILLY LEGEND is a story best told at a campfire in the deep East Texas woods, where dim trails lead to sudden adventure and the screech of an owl raises your hair — for this was the lair of Ben Lilly.

As the rural South grew through the cane breaks, swamps and thickets, his exploits exemplified the spirit of early frontiersmen. The tales, the regional customs and the eccentricities of the man mingle reality and myth.

Benjamin Vernon Lilly was born Dec. 31, 1856, in Wilcox County, Ala., the oldest of seven children. His mother, Margaret Anna McKay, was Scottish and graduated from Nicholson Female College in Mississippi. His parents believed in education. He had a sister who became a teacher at Davidson College and another who was a pipe organist and music teacher.

His family also understood steel. His father, Albert Lilly, was a wheelwright and blacksmith. During the Civil War, he forged horseshoes and the 18-inch, double-edged blades that were carried by General Nathan Bedford Forrest's hell-for-leather cavalry.

Ben Lilly's grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Lilly, fought in

saddle himself and invite an unsuspecting youth to try to ride him. Then he'd buck and pitch, tearing up a half-acre of ground, and then jump off a creek bank into deep water.

Despite his exposure to harsh weather, Lilly was seldom sick. The only lingering malady he suffered was a loss of hearing in one ear. He claimed it came from sleeping on wet ground. There is a story he once had malaria. Doctors had a hard time keeping him in the hospital, and finally one day saw him outside rolling in the mud. He believed sweetened water and Mother Earth could cure his ailments.

Lilly was well-known for his eccentricities. He would stick an ear of corn in his pocket, take his blanket and a piece of canvas and disappear into the woods for weeks. His wife once complained about a hawk getting their chickens and pointed to it perched in a tree. The hawk flew just as Lilly picked up his rifle. So he followed it into the woods. More than a year later he came home and reported, "That hawk just kept flying."

Lilly always wore a beard. He said he was a big boy the first time he saw a man with a clean-shaven face, and it scared him terribly. He thought the man was dead. Never wanting to scare anyone, he vowed to always wear a beard.

He refused to work on Sundays. Even on a hot track, at the stroke of midnight he shut business down. If his dogs treed a mountain lion on Saturday night, they would have to stay with the cat until Monday morning.

Ben Lilly worked hard, lived hard and played hard; but he was a gentle and soft-spoken man. He used good English and enjoyed telling stories. His face was described as fresh and open as the prairie after a spring rain. To know him

and to listen to him was to trust him and believe him. He considered owning property to be a hindrance. His heart was in the wild lands, and he never doubted he was born to hunt. To him, bears and mountain lions were all potential stock killers. Various government agencies and stock associations paid bounties on predators. He saw it as his duty to hunt them and educate others about the animals' habits.

Practically single-handedly, Lilly exterminated bears from Mississippi and Louisiana. Then he moved to the Texas Big Thicket. When he left, he reported that fewer than a dozen bears remained. This was not gluttony. The growing country welcomed him. The pioneers knew they were part of the wilderness food chain, and wanted to establish themselves at the top.

Lilly filled a void between Davy Crockett and the more modern-day outdoorsmen Jack O'Connor and Elmer Keith. He survived from the American frontier to the Industrial Revolution. He guided Theodore Roosevelt on hunts and, though not a conservationist, was one of the first hunters to provide scientific evidence to the U.S. Biological Survey. Many naturalists and biologists of the early 20th century quote him in their books.

In a conversation with J. Frank Dobie, Lilly summarized his feelings: "When I am around babies, I always tote them out on my arm in the evening and let them look at the stars and feel the wind. They sleep better for that. They would sleep better still if they had their pallets on the ground. I always sleep better on the ground. Something agreeable to my system seeps into it from the ground. Every man and woman ought to get out and be alone with the elements a while every day...." ★

# Ben Lilly

**LILLY ALWAYS WORE A BEARD. HE SAID HE WAS A BIG BOY THE FIRST TIME HE SAW A MAN WITH A CLEAN-SHAVEN FACE, AND IT SCARED HIM TERRIBLY.**

the War of 1812 and built guns famous for their accuracy. His great-grandfather, William Lilly, came from England. He lived in the most remote area of North Carolina among the Indians.

A kinsman, John Lilly, built guns during the Revolutionary War. He was called "Pegleg" for obvious reasons, and was noted for bracing three British soldiers at once with his sword.

Ben Lilly's first vocation was blacksmithing. He enjoyed making his Lilly knives and knew how to temper steel. Nevertheless, he inherited a farm and tried to become a farmer. Neighbors reported seeing Lilly running behind his plowhorse, tearing furrows in the earth at full gallop, laughing and guiding the plow handles.

He was an extraordinary specimen of pure strength. Lilly stood 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighed 180 pounds. He could sink his hooks into a 500-pound cotton bale, heft it onto his back and carry it off. One of his favorite tricks was to walk into the blacksmith shop, grab the anvil by the horn with one hand, lift it straight out in front of him, then grab it two-handed and pitch it over his shoulder.

His running skill was unequalled. He once bet a local athlete he could outrun him around a baseball diamond, and Lilly would run on all fours. Lilly crossed homeplate with the challenged loser still halfway back to third base.

He was also a great prankster. He loved to play horse. He'd



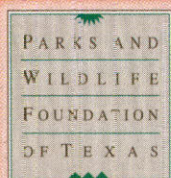


*Budweiser*

KING OF TEXAS OUTDOORS

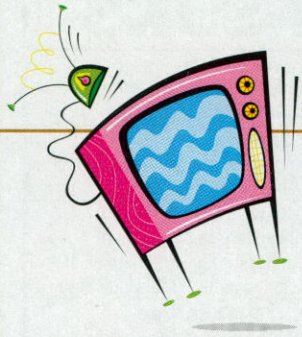
Budweiser is Wild on Texas. We are proud to support the conservation and education efforts of the Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit organization. Our partnership has a rich tradition of helping to preserve Texas coastal habitat, to educate and teach conservation to Texans, and to help restore Texas Largemouth Bass and Red Drum.

PROUD SUPPORTER





# SIGHTS AND SOUNDS



THE FRONT LINE OF NEWS AND VIEWS



## T E L E V I S I O N

LOOK FOR THESE STORIES  
IN THE COMING WEEKS:

### Dec. 29 - Jan. 5:

The geology and ecology of Matagorda Island; choosing a sleeping bag; the disappearing horned lizard; quail hunting.

### Jan. 5 - 12:

A second life for World War II Liberty Ships; mallards; the birthplace of President Dwight Eisenhower; rescue on the rocks; coastal paddling trails.

### Jan. 12 - 19:

Caddo Lake history and culture; sunny CDs; preserving rock art at Hueco Tanks; buck fever; seagrasses.

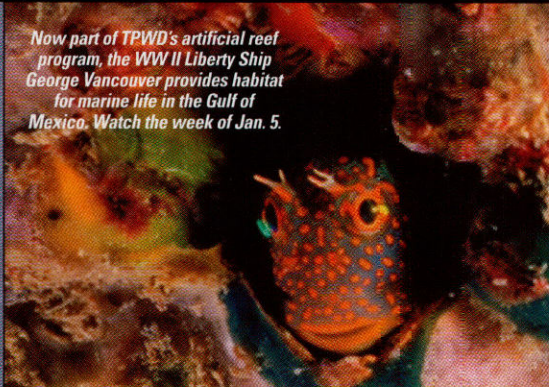
### Jan. 19 - 26:

Boating safety; call of the titmouse; Caprock Canyons State Park; the web of life; Brazos Bend wildlife.

### Jan. 26 - Feb. 2:

Historical reenactors; GPS; the Sharelunker program; struggles of the Attwater's prairie chicken; coyotes.

*Now part of TPWD's artificial reef program, the WW II Liberty Ship George Vancouver provides habitat for marine life in the Gulf of Mexico. Watch the week of Jan. 5.*



## "TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE"

Winner of 12 Emmy Awards, our television series is broadcast throughout Texas on local PBS affiliates. In stereo where available.

**AMARILLO:** KACV, Ch. 2 / Sat. 6 p.m.

**AUSTIN:** KLRU, Ch. 18 / Sun. 10 a.m. / Mon. 12:30 p.m. KLRU-TOO, Cable Ch. 20 / Tues. 11 p.m.

**BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION:** KAMU, Ch. 15 / Thurs. 7 p.m. / Sun. 5 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** KEDT, Ch. 16 / Sun. 11 a.m. / Thurs. 1 p.m. / Fri. 8:30 p.m.

**DALLAS-FORT WORTH:** KERA, Ch. 13 / Sat. 8:30 a.m.

Also serving Abilene, Denton, Longview, Marshall, San Angelo, Texarkana, Tyler, Wichita Falls, Sherman

**EL PASO:** KCOS, Ch. 13 / Sat. 5 p.m.

(rotates with other programs; check listings)

**HARLINGEN:** KMBH, Ch. 60 / Sun. 5:30 p.m.

Also serving McAllen, Mission, Brownsville

**HOUSTON:** KUHT, Ch. 8 / Sun. 5 p.m. / Fri. 7 p.m.

Also serving Beaumont/Port Arthur, Galveston, Texas City, Victoria

**KILLEEN:** KNCT, Ch. 46 / Sun. 5 p.m.

Also serving Temple

**LUBBOCK:** KTXB, Ch. 5 / Sat. noon

**ODESSA-MIDLAND:** KOCV, Ch. 36 / Sat. 5 p.m.

**PORTALES, N.M.:** KENW, Ch. 3 / Sun. 2 p.m.

Also serving West Texas/Panhandle area

**SAN ANTONIO & LAREDO:** KLRN, Ch. 9 / Friday noon, Sunday 2 p.m.

**WACO:** KWBU, Ch. 34 / Sat. 3 p.m.

Check local listings. Times and dates are subject to change, especially during PBS membership drives.

## R A D I O

### "PASSPORT TO TEXAS"

Your Radio Guide to the  
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Join Joel Block weekdays for a 90-second journey into the Texas Outdoors. Producers Cecilia Nasti, (512) 389-4667 and Lisa Wheeler, (512) 389-8031. Check this listing for a station near you or tune in on our Web site:

[www.passporttotexas.org](http://www.passporttotexas.org)

**ABILENE:** KACU-FM 89.7 / 7:06 a.m. & 1:44, 6:01 p.m., KWKC-AM 1340 / 6:28 a.m.

**ATLANTA:** KAQC Cable Ch. 22 / 8:15 a.m.

**ALPINE:** KSRC-FM 92.7 / 9 a.m.

**AMARILLO:** KACV-FM 89.9 / 11:20 a.m.

**AUSTIN:** KUT-FM 90.5 / 1:04 p.m., KVET-AM 1300 / between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Sat.

**BEAUMONT:** KLVI-AM 560 / 5:20 a.m.

**BIG SPRING:** KBST-AM 1490 / 10:55 a.m., cable ch. 23 / 10:55 a.m., KBST-FM 95.7 / 10:55 a.m.

**BRADY:** KNEL-AM 1490 / 7:20 a.m. & 8:50 p.m. (7:50 a.m. Sat.), KNEL-FM 95.3 / 7:20 a.m. & 8:50 p.m. (7:50 a.m. Sat.)

**BRIDGEPORT:** KBOC-FM 98.3 / 8:10 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.

**BRYAN:** KZNE-AM 1150 / 5:45 p.m.

**CANTON:** KVCI-AM 1510 / 6:40 a.m.

**CANYON:** KWTS-FM 91.1 / noon hour & 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**CARTHAGE:** KGAS-AM 1590 / 6:46 a.m., KGAS-FM 104.3 / 6:46 a.m.

**CENTER:** KDET-AM 930 / 12:25 p.m., KDET-FM 100.2 / 12:25 p.m.

**COLEMAN:** KSTA-AM 1000 / 5:05 p.m.

**COLUMBUS:** KULM-FM 98.3 / 7:20 a.m.

**COMANCHE:** KCOM-AM 1550 / 6:30 a.m.

**COMMERCE:** KETR-FM 88.9 / 10:15 a.m.

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** KEDT-FM 90.3 / 5:34 p.m., KFTX-FM 97.5 / 5:40 a.m., KBSO-FM 94.7 / 6:50 a.m.

**CROCKETT:** KIVY-AM 1290 / 8:15 a.m., KIVY-FM 92.7 / 8:15 a.m.

**CUERO:** KVCQ-FM 97.7 / 6:50 a.m.

**DEL RIO:** KWMC-AM 1490 / 5:50 p.m.

**DENISON/SHERMAN:** KJIM-AM 1500 / 8:55 a.m.



**DENTON/DALLAS/FT. WORTH:** KNTU-FM 88.1 / 10:30 a.m. & 2:30, 5:50 p.m.

**DIMMITT:** KDHN-AM 1470 / 12:31 p.m.

**DUMAS:** KDDD-FM 95.3 / 10:30 a.m. KDDD-AM 800 / 10:30 a.m.

**EAGLE PASS:** KINL-FM 92.7 / 7:15 a.m.

**EASTLAND:** KEAS-AM 1590 / 5:51 a.m. & 5:51 p.m., KATX-FM 97.7 / 5:51 a.m. & 5:51 p.m.

**EDNA:** KGUL-FM 96.1 / 6:50 a.m.

**EL CAMPO:** KULP-AM 1390 / 2 p.m.

**FAIRFIELD:** KNES-FM 99.1 / 6:47 a.m.

**FLORESVILLE:** KWCB-FM 89.7 / 1:30 p.m.

**FORT STOCKTON:** KFST-AM 860 / 7:56 a.m. & 12:50 p.m., KFST-FM 94.3 / 7:56 a.m. & 12:50 p.m.

**FORT WORTH:** KTCU-FM 88.7 / 8:50 a.m. & 5:50 p.m.

**GAINESVILLE:** KGAF-AM 1580 / 7 a.m.

**GATESVILLE:** KASZ-FM 98.3 / 7:24 a.m.

**GRANBURY:** KPIR-AM 1420 / 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**GREENVILLE:** KGVF-AM 1400 / 8:15 a.m.

**HALLETTSVILLE:** KHLT-AM 1520 / 6:50 a.m., KTXM-FM 99.9 / 6:50 a.m.

**HASKELL:** KVRP-FM 97.1 / 9:30 a.m. M-F; KVRP-AM 1400 / 9:30 a.m. M-F

**HARLINGEN:** KMBH-FM 88.9 / 4:58 p.m.

**HEREFORD:** KPAN-AM 860 / 2:50 p.m., KPAN-FM 106.3 / 2:50 p.m.

**HILLSBORO:** KHBR-AM 1560 / 9:30 a.m.

**HOUSTON:** KCOF-AM 1430 / Sat. 4:30 - 6:30 a.m.

**HUNTSVILLE:** KSHU-FM 90.5 / 11:55 a.m., 5:55 p.m.

**JACKSONVILLE:** KEBE-AM 1400 / 7:15 a.m.

**JOURDANTON:** KBUC-FM 95.7 / Sat. noon

**JUNCTION:** KMBL-AM 1450 / 6:46 a.m. & 12:46, 5:46 p.m., KOOK-FM 93.5 / 6:46 a.m. & 12:46, 5:46 p.m.

**KERRVILLE:** KITE-FM 92.3 / 11:51 a.m. & 12:51, 5:40, 8:40 p.m., KERV-AM 1230 / 6:50 a.m. & 12:50, 5:50 p.m., KRVL-FM 94.3 / 6:10 a.m. & 12:50, 5:50 p.m., KRNH-FM 92.3 / 5:31 a.m. & 12:57, 7:35 p.m.

**LAMPASAS:** KCYL-AM 1450 / 7:10 a.m., KACQ-FM 101.9 / 7:10 a.m.

**LAREDO:** KHOY-FM 88.1 / 2 p.m. M-F

**LEVELLAND:** KLVT-AM 1230 / 12:05 p.m.

**LUBBOCK:** KJTV-AM 950 / 6:50 a.m.

**MADISONVILLE:** KMVL-AM 1220 / 7:45 a.m., KMVL-FM 100.5 / 7:45 a.m.

**MARBLE FALLS:** KHLB-AM 1340 / 7:20 a.m., KHLB-FM 106.9 / 7:20 a.m.

**MARSHALL:** KCUL-AM 1410 / 6:39 a.m., KCUL-FM 92.3 / 6:39 a.m.

**MCALLEN:** KHID-FM 88.1 / 4:58 p.m.

**MESQUITE:** KEOM-FM 88.5 / 5:30 a.m. & 2:30, 8:30 p.m. M-Th. (5:30 a.m. & 4:45 p.m. F)

**MEXIA:** KYCX-AM 1580 / 3 p.m. M-F, KYCX-FM 104.9 / 3:20 p.m. M-F

**MIDLAND/ODESSA:** KCRS-AM 550 / 6:15 a.m. & 5:50 p.m., KOCV-FM 91.3 / 7:37 a.m. M-F

**MINEOLA:** KMOO-FM 99.9 / 5:15 p.m.

**MONAHANS:** KLEO-AM 1330 / 8:50 a.m.

**NACOGDOCHES:** <SAU-FM 90.1 / 3 p.m.

**NEW BRAUNFELS:** KGNB-AM 1420 / 6:52 a.m.

**OZONA:** KYXX-FM 94.3 / 6:46 a.m., noon & 3:46 p.m.

**PECOS:** KIUN-AM 1400 / 10:30 a.m. & 5:20 p.m.

**PLAINVIEW:** KKYN-AM 1090 / TBA

**ROCKDALE:** KRXT-FM 98.5 / 5:04 a.m. & 6:35 p.m.

**SAN ANGELO:** KUTX-FM 90.1 / 1:04 p.m.

**SAN ANTONIO:** KSTX-FM 89.1 / 9:04 p.m. Th., KENS-AM 1160 / 7:40 a.m., 12:26 & 5:45 p.m.

**SAN AUGUSTINE:** KCOT-FM 92.5 / 12:25 p.m.

**SEGUIN:** KWED-AM 1580 / 7:55 a.m.

**SONORA:** KHOS-FM 92.1 / 6:22 p.m.

**SCHULENBERG:** KTXM-FM 99.9 / 6:50 a.m.

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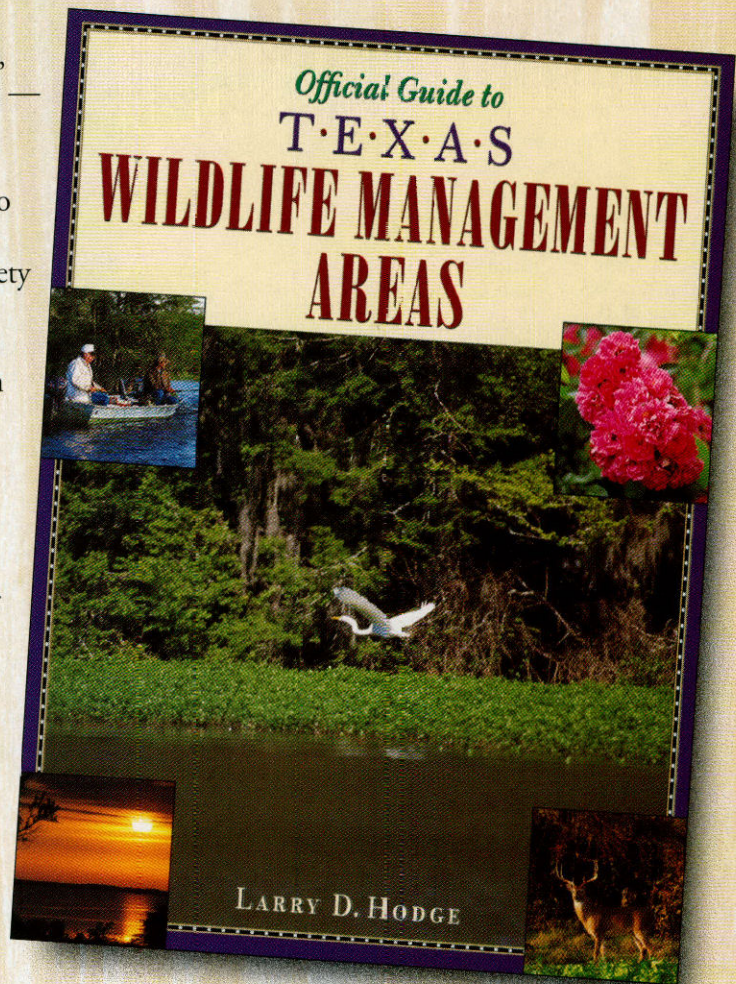
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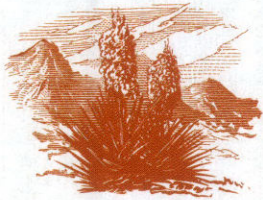
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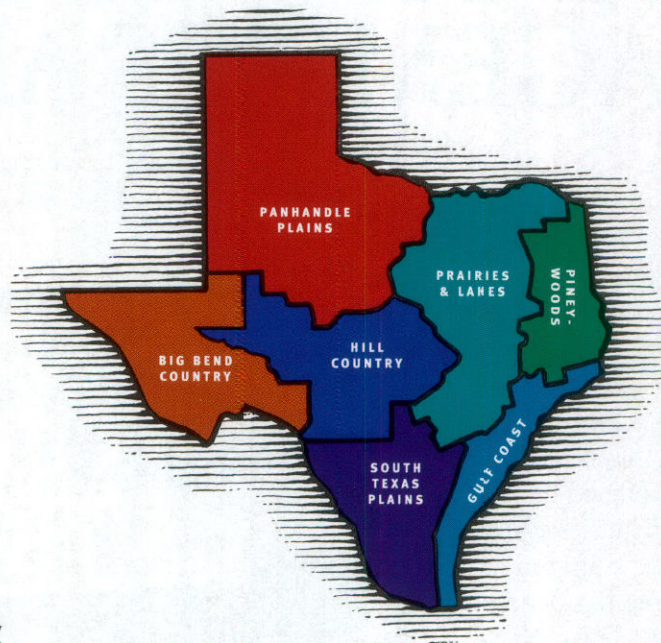
**JAN. 1-8, 13-31:** Fishing on the Rio Grande, Black Gap WMA, Alpine, (915) 376-2216.

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**JAN. 11:** Bakery Workshop, Fort Leaton SHS, Presidio, (915) 229-3613.

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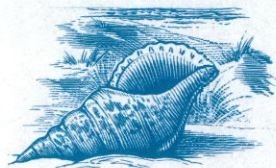


**JAN. 19:** Bird Identification Tours, Hueco Tanks SHS, El Paso, (915) 857-1135.

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**JAN. 20-24:** Wilderness Advanced First Aid Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, Terlingua, reservations required, (915) 371-2633.

**JAN. 25:** Trip to Madrid Falls, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, reservations required, (915) 229-3416.



## GULF COAST

**JAN.:** Weekend Nature Programs, every Saturday and Sunday, Brazos Bend SP, Needville, (979) 553-5101.

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**JAN.:** Plantation House, Barn and Grounds Tours, Wednesday through Sunday, Varner-Hogg Plantation SHP, West Columbia, (979) 345-4656.

**JAN.:** Nature Programs, every Saturday and Sunday, Galveston Island SP, Galveston, (409) 737-1222.

**JAN.:** Aquarium and Hatchery Tours, every Tuesday through Sunday, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, (979) 292-0100.

**JAN. 4, 11, 17, 18, 25:** Story Time, Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson. (979) 292-0100.

**JAN. 9, 23:** Intracoastal Whooping Crane Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

**JAN. 11, 19:** Beachcombing and Shelling Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

**JAN. 16:** Whooping Crane Bus Tour, Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor, reservations required, (361) 983-2215.

**JAN. 18:** Hard Hat Tours, Battleship Texas SHS, La Porte, (281) 479-2431, ext. 234.

**JAN. 18:** Saving the Coastal Long Grass Prairie, Galveston Island SP, Galveston, (409) 737-1222.



## HILL COUNTRY

**JAN.:** Gorman Falls Tour, every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, (915) 628-3240.

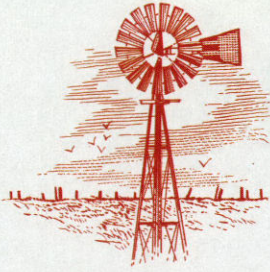
**JAN.:** Walking Wild Cave Tour, every Saturday and Sunday weather permitting, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, (915) 628-3240.

**JAN.:** Bird Watching, daily except when park is closed for hunting, Pedernales Falls SP, Johnson City, (830) 868-7304.

**JAN. 4:** Crawling Wild Cave Tour, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, (915) 628-3240.

**JAN. 18:** Summit Trail Project, Enchanted Rock SNA, Fredericksburg, (210) 682-4480.





## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**JAN. 4:** Petroglyph Tours, San Angelo SP, San Angelo, (915) 949-4757.

**JAN. 11:** History Hike, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227, ext. 49.

**JAN. 18:** Canyon Critters, Palo Duro Canyon SP, Canyon, (806) 488-2227, ext. 49.

**JAN. 25:** Eagles of the Trailway, Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque. (806) 455-1492.



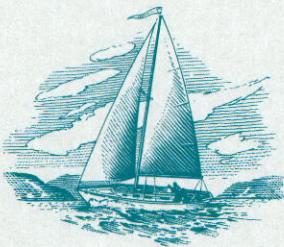
## PINEYWOODS

**JAN. 4, 18:** Guided Nature Trail Hike, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322.

**JAN. 10, 24:** Nature Slide Show, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, (409) 755-7322.

**JAN. 18:** Floating The Forks, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, (409) 384-5231.

**JAN. 25:** 5K & 11K Walk, Tyler SP, Tyler, (903) 534-9301.



## PRAIRIES & LAKES

**JAN.:** Historic and Scenic Group Tours, call for dates, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, reservations required, (979) 968-5658.

**JAN.:** Kreische Brewery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, (979) 968-5658.

**JAN.:** Feat of Clay: Texas Pottery and Potters, 1850-1890, daily, Sebastopol House SHS, Seguin, (830) 379-4833.

**JAN.:** Amphitheater Program, every Saturday evening, Stephen F. Austin SP, San Felipe, (979) 885-3613.

**JAN. 2-31:** Trout Harvest, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens, (903) 676-BASS.

**JAN. 4-5, 12, 18-19, 25-26:** Tours, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633.

**JAN. 5, 12:** Kreische House Tours, Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS, La Grange, (979) 968-5658.

**JAN. 11:** Stagecoach Days, Fanthorp Inn SHS, Anderson, (936) 873-2633.

**JAN. 18:** Wildlife Tracking, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

**JAN. 18, 25:** Penn Farm Tour, Cedar Hill SP, Cedar Hill, (972) 291-5940.

**JAN. 19:** Anson Jones' Birthday, Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS, Washington, (936) 878-2213.



## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**JAN.:** Kiskadee Birding Tours, every Tuesday and Friday, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, (956) 585-1107.

**JAN. 18:** Las Pastorelas, Goliad SP, Goliad, (361) 645-3405.

**JAN. 18:** Mountain Bike Clinic, Government Canyon SNA, San Antonio, (210) 688-9055.

<b>SP</b>	State Park
<b>SHS</b>	State Historical Site
<b>SNA</b>	State Natural Area
<b>WMA</b>	Wildlife Management Area
<b>SFH</b>	State Fish Hatchery

## State Parks Offer Public Hunts

A number of state parks will offer special permit hunting this fall and winter. As in the past, the specially controlled public hunts are scheduled for Monday through Friday, a slow time at most parks during winter. Most parks will be open on Saturdays and Sundays for camping, picnicking and similar activities. The following schedule lists the dates when public access is restricted. Call the park of your choice directly to make sure it will be open on the day you want to visit. Or call Texas Parks and Wildlife's information line, (300) 792-1112, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**JAN. 1-3:** Inks Lake SP, Burnet (512) 793-2223.

**JAN. 1-3:** Longhorn Cavern SP, Burnet (877) 441-2283.

**JAN. 2-3:** Possum Kingdom SP, Caddo (940) 549-1803.

**JAN. 3-5:** Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Port O'Connor (361) 983-2215.

**JAN. 4-5:** Lake Houston SP, New Caney (281) 354-6881.

**JAN. 5-8:** Hill Country SNA, Bandera, (830) 796-4413.

**JAN. 5-10:** Enchanted Rock SNA, Fredericksburg (915) 247-3903.

**JAN. 5-10:** Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch (830) 438-2656.

**JAN. 5-10:** Fairfield Lake SP, Fairfield (903) 389-4514.

**JAN. 5-10:** Lake Whitney SP, Whitney (254) 694-3793.

**JAN. 5-10:** South Llano River SP, Junction (915) 446-3994.

**JAN. 6-8:** Lake Houston SP, New Caney (281) 354-6881.

**JAN. 6-8:** Lake Houston SP, New Caney (281) 354-6881.

**JAN. 6-10:** Brazos Bend SP, Neeville (979) 553-5101.

**JAN. 6-10:** Lost Maples SNA, Vanderpool (830) 966-3413.

**JAN. 6-10:** Federnales Falls SP, Johnson City (830) 868-7304.

**JAN. 6-10:** Huntsville SP, Huntsville (936) 295-5644.

**JAN. 6-10:** Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit, Calliham (361) 736-3868.

**JAN. 6-10:** Brazos Bend SP, Neeville (979) 553-5101.

**JAN. 7-9:** Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway, Mineral Wells (940) 328-1171.

**JAN. 7-9:** Lake Brownwood SP, Brownwood (915) 784-5223.

**JAN. 7-10:** Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque (806) 455-1492.

**JAN. 7-10:** Colorado Bend SP, Bend (915) 628-3240.

**JAN. 8-10:** Inks Lake SP, Burnet (512) 793-2223.

**JAN. 8-10:** Longhorn Cavern SP, Burnet (877) 441-2283.

**JAN. 11-13:** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio (915) 229-3416.

**JAN. 12-15:** Hill Country SNA, Bandera (830) 796-4413.

**JAN. 12-17:** Guadalupe River SP, Spring Branch (830) 438-2656.

**JAN. 12-17:** South Llano River SP, Junction (915) 446-3994.

**JAN. 13-15:** Lake Houston SP, New Caney (281) 354-6881.

**JAN. 13-15:** Davis Mountains SP, Fort Davis (915) 426-3337.

**JAN. 13-17:** Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit, Calliham (361) 786-3868.

**JAN. 13-17:** Lost Maples SNA, Vanderpool (830) 966-3413.

**JAN. 13-17:** Federnales Falls SP, Johnson City (830) 868-7304.

**JAN. 14-16:** Lake Brownwood SP, Brownwood (915) 784-5223.

**JAN. 14-17:** Caprock Canyons SP & Trailway, Quitaque (806) 455-1492.

**JAN. 14-17:** Colorado Bend SP, Bend (915) 628-3240.

**JAN. 15-17:** Huntsville SP, Huntsville (936) 295-5644.

**JAN. 15-17:** Davis Mountains SP, Fort Davis (915) 426-3337.

**JAN. 20-22:** Davis Mountains SP, Fort Davis (915) 426-3337.

**JAN. 20-24:** Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit, Calliham (361) 786-3868.

**JAN. 20-24:** Lost Maples SNA, Vanderpool (830) 966-3413.

**JAN. 21-23:** Lake Brownwood SP, Brownwood (915) 784-5223.

**JAN. 21-23:** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio (915) 229-3416.

**JAN. 22-24:** Davis Mountains SP, Fort Davis (915) 426-3337.

**JAN. 21-24:** Colorado Bend SP, Bend (915) 628-3240.

**JAN. 21-24:** Federnales Falls SP, Johnson City (830) 868-7304.

**JAN. 22-24:** Inks Lake SP, Burnet (512) 793-2223.

**JAN. 22-24:** Longhorn Cavern SP, Burnet (877) 441-2283.

**JAN. 24-26:** Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Fort O'Connor (361) 983-2215.

**JAN. 27-31:** Federnales Falls SP, Johnson City (830) 868-7304.

**JAN. 28-30:** Lake Brownwood SP, Brownwood (915) 784-5223.

**JAN. 26-29:** Fort Boggy SNA, Waco (903) 536-1523.

**JAN. 29-31:** Inks Lake SP, Burnet (512) 793-2223.

**JAN. 29-31:** Longhorn Cavern SP, Burnet (877) 441-2283.

**JAN. 31-Feb. 2:** Matagorda Island SP & WMA, Fort O'Connor (361) 983-2215.



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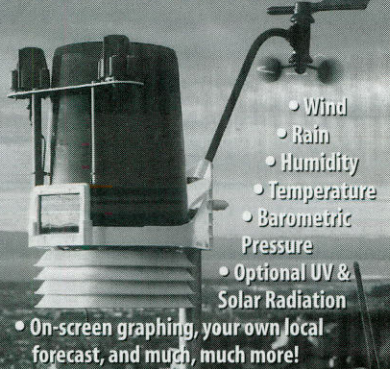
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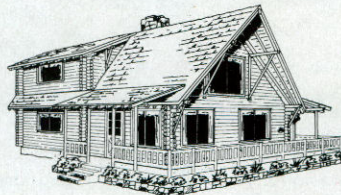
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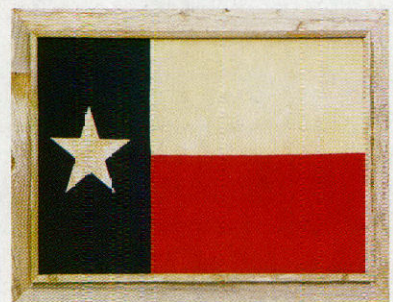
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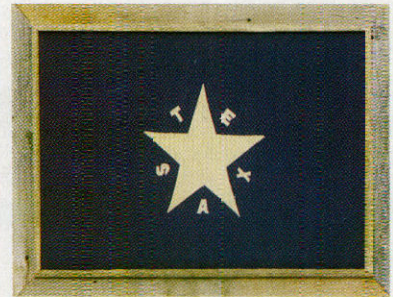
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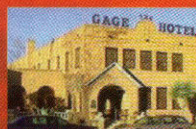
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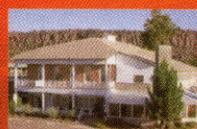
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# Hometown Horned Toads

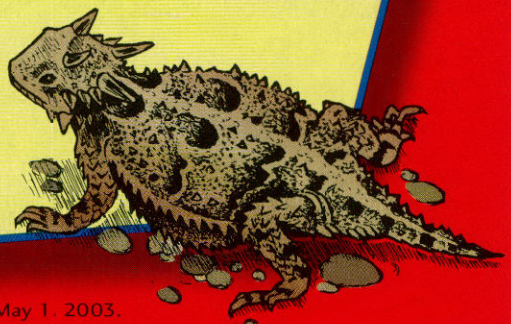
## 2002-03 Essay Contest

**WANTED:**  
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Texas Parks and Wildlife is sponsoring an essay contest open to students, grades 3-12, to document personal stories and do research about horned toads in their communities. Biologists hope student researchers and the memories they collect from community residents will provide clues as to why horned lizard populations have declined and how to help them make a comeback.

To receive an information packet that includes rules, suggestions for doing research and prizes, call the Wildlife Diversity Branch, 1-800-792-1112 ext. 7011, or check out our Web site: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/htth](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/htth)



Entry deadline is March 1, 2003. Winner announced by May 1, 2003.



# PARTINGSHOT



Photographer Jesse Cancelmo captured these red brittle stars spawning while he was on a night dive at the West Flower Garden Banks on Aug. 30, 2002. It was the ninth night after the August full moon, a time of the year known for coral spawning. "We observed red and ruby brittle stars in aggregations," says Cancelmo. "Some were joining in the coral spawn melea."



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